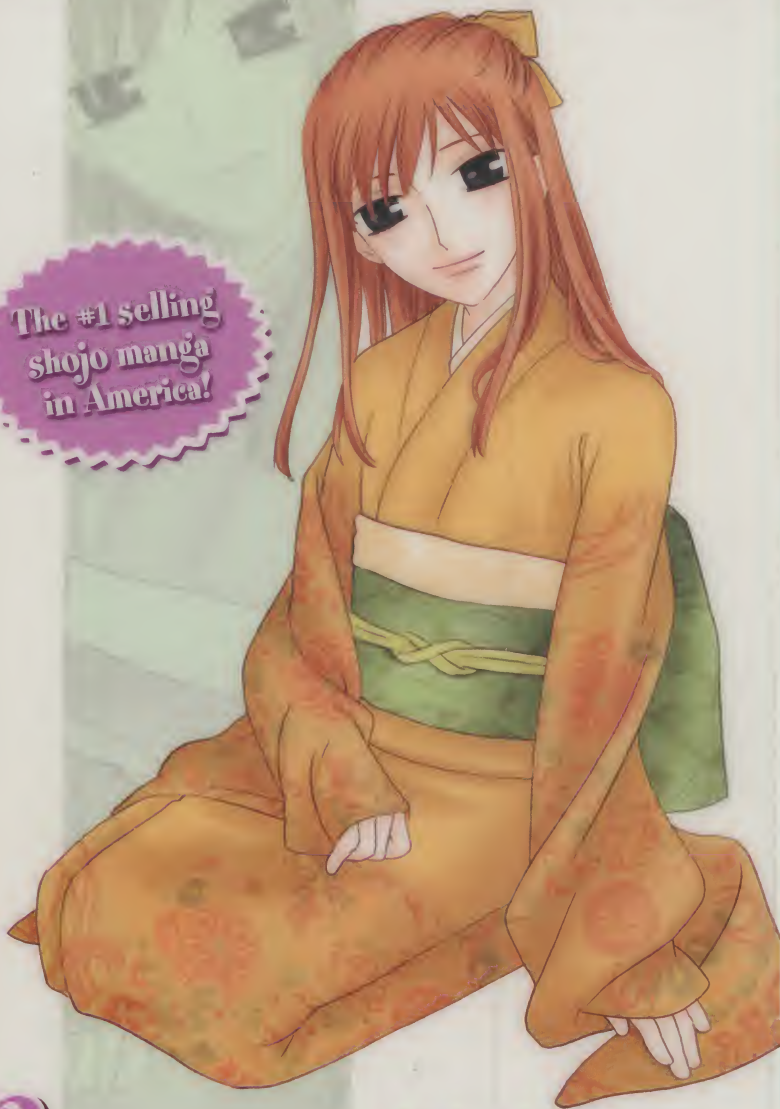


Fruits Basket

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The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



12

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

Volume 12



Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

Table of Contents

Chapter 66	10
Chapter 67	43
Chapter 68	73
Chapter 69	104
Chapter 70	137
Chapter 71	167
Year of the Monkey	200
Fans Basket	201

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!





Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."

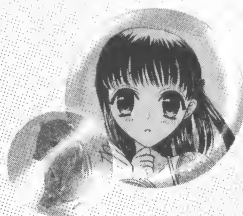


Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio

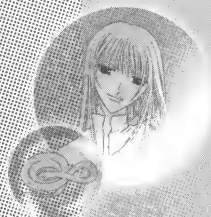
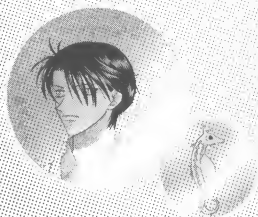


Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmias. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.

Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

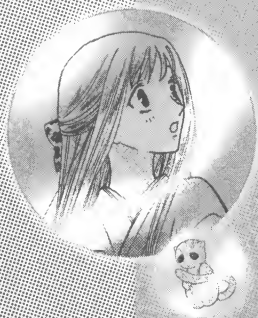
Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



Fruits Basket Characters

Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She has the hots for Shigure...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.

Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.





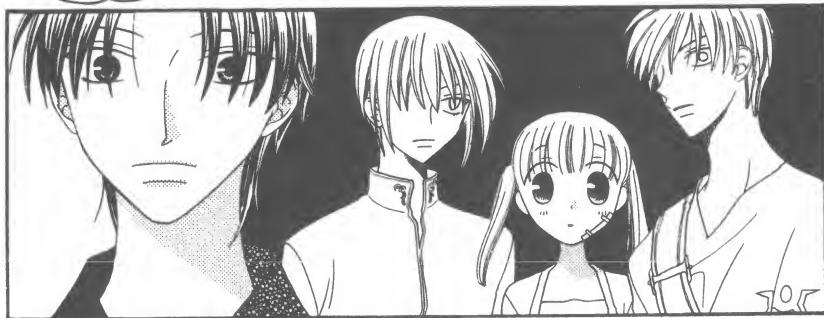
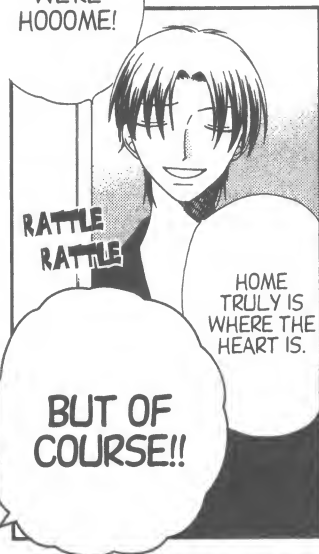
Chapter 66



Fruits Basket™

Filler
sketch







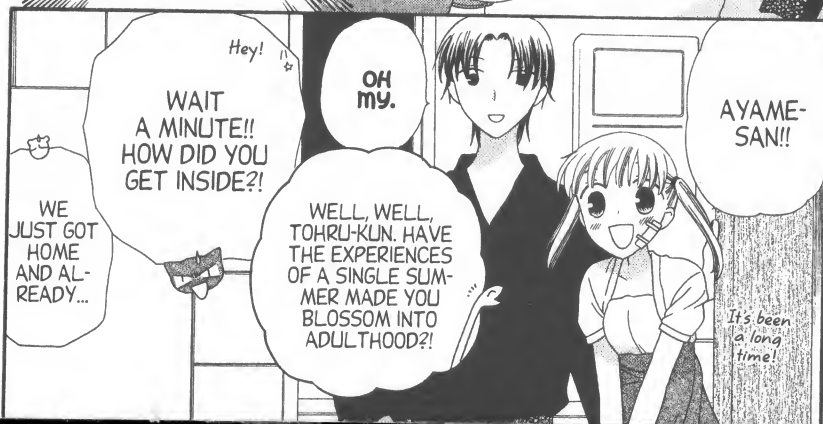
Relax.

**SOME-
BODY MADE
HIMSELF TOO
MUCH AT HOME
ALREADY!!**

DON'T MIND ME.
YOU MUST MAKE
YOURSELVES AT
HOME AND RELAX,
POST HASTE!!

**YES,
YES!**

YOU
MUST BE
TIRED FROM
YOUR LONG
JOURNEY,
EVERYONE!!



Hey!

WAIT
A MINUTE!!
HOW DID YOU
GET INSIDE?!

OH
MY.

WELL, WELL,
TOHRU-KUN. HAVE
THE EXPERIENCES
OF A SINGLE SUM-
MER MADE YOU
BLOSSOM INTO
ADULTHOOD?!

AYAME-
SAN!!

It's been
a long
time!

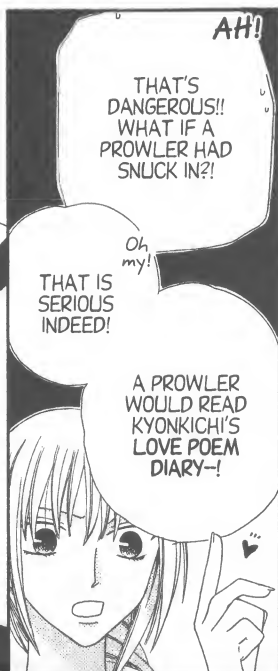
WE
JUST GOT
HOME
AND AL-
READY...



↑
Last person to
leave the house.



Cleaning up





HM?
PLEASE,
GO AHEAD.

SHIGURE-
SAN...

MAY
I USE YOUR
PHONE?

LISTEN
TO ME!!

HM? WHAT'S
THIS? DID YOU
WANT A MAID
OUTFIT, TOO,
KYONKICHI?

HELL
NO!!



WAS THERE
REALLY NO
PURPOSE
BEHIND YOUR
COMING HERE,
NII-SAN?

WELL?

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!

Typ
typ
typ...



AH...

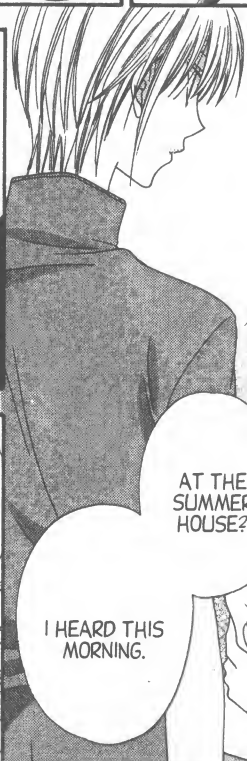


If it's
price you're
worried about,
don't worry!
I will give
you a student
discount!



IT WOULD
SEEM
THAT ONCE
AGAIN...

...I FAILED TO
OFFER YOU
STRENGTH
WHEN YOU
NEEDED IT
MOST.



AKITO-SAN
SHOWED UP,
DIDN'T HE?



AT
LEAST...

SO...

.....

AT THE
SUMMER
HOUSE?

I HEARD THIS
MORNING.

NO...
DEFINITELY
NO...

No with all my
heart...

I VOW THAT
TONIGHT I
SHALL FALL
ASLEEP WHILE
EMBRACING
MY WOUNDED
BROTHER TO
MY BOSOM!!

VIENS
VITE
!!

I know
you're
trying
your best,
Aya,
but...

NOT AT
YOU?!!

THEN YOU MUST
STRIKE! GIVE
IN TO YOUR
WOUNDED HEART
AND STRIKE,
STRIKE, STRIKE
WITH RECKLESS
ABANDON!

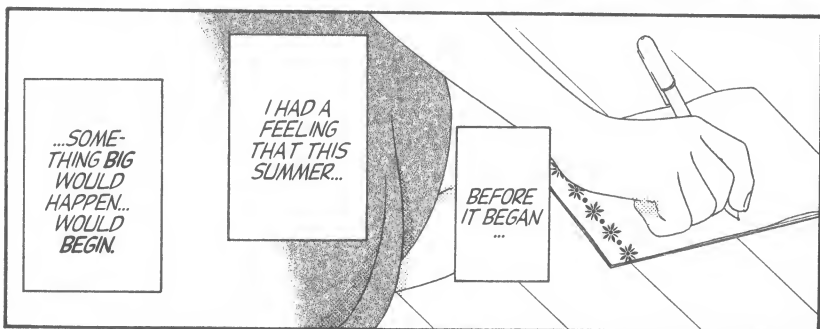
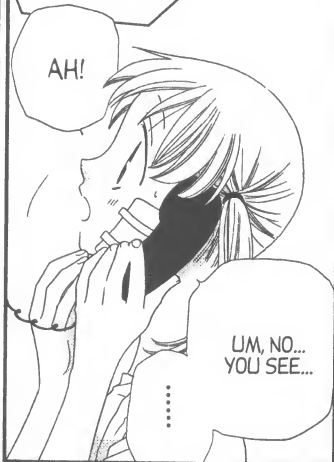
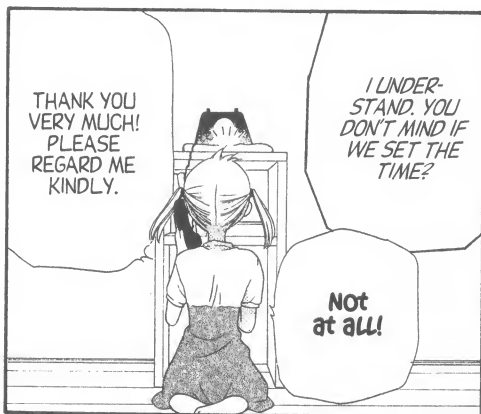
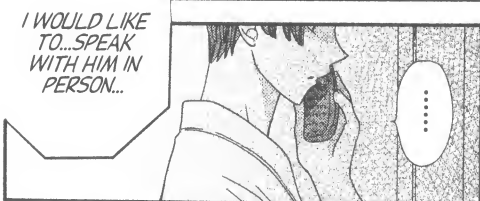
AT KYON-
KICHI!!

YES.

A TRIP...
YOU SAY?

EH...?

SQUABBLE
BICKER





...CAN
FEEL IT.

I THINK
EVERY-
ONE...

IT'S
THERE,
IN FRONT
OF US.

THAT
FEELING
CAME
TRUE.



FIGHT...

I MUST
FIGHT ON!

...USING
ALL THE
STRENGTH
I CAN
MUSTER...



WITH A NEW
GOAL IN MY
HEART...



click

SOME-
THING IS
STARTING
TO MOVE.

IT
AFFECTS
EVERY-
ONE.

EVEN
ME.

WITH A
GOAL
IN MY
HEART...

...IT'S TIME
TO START
A NEW
SEASON...

Um,
y'know,
Aoyu...
YOU'LL
JUST
TRANS-
FORM.

...AND
A NEW
SCHOOL
TERM!!

Such
rudeness!!

IF YOU ARE
GOING TO BE
SO DIFFICULT,
THEN I AM
LEFT WITH NO
ALTERNATIVE!!

I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO
SLEEP WHILE
EMBRACING
TOHRU-KUN!!

EEHH
?!!

HOW DO YOU
COME TO THAT
CONCLUSION...?!

TRY
IT AND
I'LL **CRUSH**
YOU WITH
ALL MY
MIGHT!!



THAT'S JUST
GREAT!! YOU
DAMN BOYS
JUST KEEP
GROWING AND
GROWING
!!

WHETHER
SOMEONE
GROWS OR NOT
ISN'T REALLY
DETERMINED
BY GENDER...
You've grown
plenty yourself,
Arisa...

IT'S MY
GOAL TO
CRACK
SIX FEET!

DAMMIT!
WHAT IS THIS?
YOU GOT
EVEN BIGGER
DURING THE
BREAK!!

Yup.
Back.

Ah,
it's good
to be
back.

.....
!



UO-
CHAN...?

TOHRU-KUN...
BE SYMPA-
THETIC...



IN THE END...
ARISA WAS
NEVER REUNITED
WITH THE MAN
FROM THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE...



I CAN'T EVEN
GET ONE
GUY TO PAY
ATTENTION
TO ME.



LOOKS
LIKE YOU
WEREN'T ABLE
TO BECOME
MORE FEMINE
DURING THE
BREAK!

MIGHT AS
WELL THROW
AWAY YOUR
WOMANHOOD!!

Hmph!

MAYBE
I WILL! IT'S
NOT LIKE IT'S
DOING ME ANY
GOOD.



THAT
IS ...

...the back
of a woman
in love...

TOHRU-
KUN...

LOOK
CAREFULLY...

...
!!

...I FEEL
SO BAD...

OH...
HEARING
THAT...

YES...
SORROW-
FUL,
ISN'T IT
...?

*Primed for a fight!

喧嘩上等!

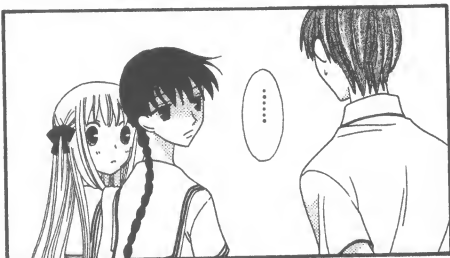
IF I EVER SEE
THAT JERK AGAIN,
I'LL RIP HIS HEAD
OFF! I'LL KICK
HIS ASS INTO THE
SKY BEFORE HE
CAN EVEN GET A
WORD IN, THEN
I'LL PUNCH RIGHT
THROUGH HIM
WITH ALL MY
STRENGTH!

TO THINK
YOU WOULD
SAY SUCH A
THING.....

OH... HOW
STRANGE...

Keh!

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? IT'S
NOT LIKE YOU'RE
THE PRETTY
TYPE TO WORRY
ABOUT THINGS
LIKE THAT.



.....



... HEH.



WH--

WHAT'S
STRANGE
ABOUT
IT...?!

FOR YOU, I'LL
LEAVE IT AT
THAT...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

Yes,
yes,
yes!

DID YOU
READ MY
MIND!?!
And that
laugh
!!!

MY
MIND!!

YOU CAN'T
READ MINDS
WITH WAVES...
I LAUGHED
BECAUSE I
REMEMBERED
SOMETHING...

TODAY?!
BUT I
HAVE
WORK!

W
H
A
A
?

The
winner
gets the
glorious
homework-
copying
privilege!!

ALL THOSE
WHO WANT TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE
"START OF NEW
TERM CELEBRATION-
THE BOWLING
TOURNAMENT" AFTER
SCHOOL, PLEASE
SIGN UP HERE!

A DATE OR
SOMETHING?

WHAT IS IT
YOU HAVE
TO DO?

AWW,
THAT'S
TOO BAD.

UM...I'M
SORRY.

I HAVE
SOMETHING
I NEED TO
DO TODAY,
TOO...

Fruits Basket 12
Part 1:

Hajimemashite
and konnichiwa!
I'm Takaya. Are
you doing well? I
have a cold with
a slight fever, so
I have even less
time than usual.
Groooan...
If you please.
This is Furuba
volume 12. 12...
That's amazing!
Ah, for those of
you who are read-
ing for the first
time starting with
12, I wonder if
you thought that
Ritsu, who's on
the cover, was a
woman?
I understand
that there were
some people who
thought Aaya
on volume 9 was
a woman, so I
think it's quite
likely. Somehow,
I didn't hesitate
to let him wear
a furisode*. So,
without further
ado...

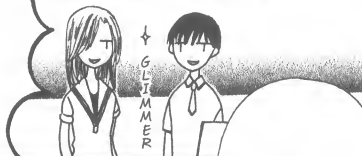
**Let's continue
volume 12!**

* formal long-sleeved
kimono worn by
unmarried women



WH-WH-
WHAT
MAKES
YOU THINK
THAT?!

NO, NO! THERE
MUST BE A
MISUNDERSTANDING!
NO, OF COURSE NOT!
I REALLY HAVE
SOMETHING TO DO!



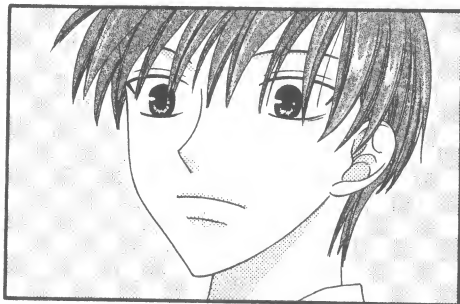
Entering teasing mode

IT
REALLY
ISN'T!!

A
A
A
H
H
H

Tohru-kun...
It's a date,
isn't it...?

NO, NO,
IT'S REALLY
SOMETHING
ELSE...REALLY!



WHERE
IS HE,
ANYWAY?

IT'S TRUE!
IT'S TOO
BAD PRINCE
CHARMING
WASN'T HERE
TO SEE IT.

Isn't he
with the
student
council?

YOU'RE
ADORABLE
WHEN
YOU PANIC,
TOHRU... WE
GOT CARRIED
AWAY...

I'm sorry...

P
H
E
W

I-I BROKE A
SWEAT...IT
SEEMS.

YUKI!

UM...THIS IS A
SOUVENIR FROM
OUR SUMMER.

WON'T YOU
ACCEPT IT...?

I'M SORRY.
I DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO
GIVE YOU IN
RETURN...

Huh?

AH...!

That's
right!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
YUKI-KUN!!

Oh
my!!

WE DON'T
MIND.

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

KINOSHITA-SAN?

UM...
MINA-
GAWA-
SENPAI?

BECAUSE YOUR
SMILING FACE IS
BETTER THAN ANY
GIFT! LIKE A BIRD, IT
SPREADS ITS WHITE
WINGS, SOARING TO
GREAT HEIGHTS IN
THE BLUE SKY THAT
IS MY HEART. THOSE
LOVELY FEATHERS...



IT'S NO
WONDER
YOU'RE SO
POPULAR.
WOW...



...

SUMMER
VACATION?
I WENT
TO THE
BEACH...

The
beach?!

THAT
SOUNDS
WONDER-
FUL!!

SIGH...



YEAH,
MINE
TOO...

MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
SOHMA-
SENPAI...!!

Oh!

FORGIVE ME.
MY MIND WAS
SUDDENLY
OVERTAKEN
BY POETRY!



MORE
IMPORTANTLY
?!!

WHAT DID
YOU DO FOR
YOUR SUMMER
VACATION?!



TEE
HEE!



AH!

OH MY! THAT
CANDY LOOKS
SOOO GOOD!!

WHO IS THIS
WOMAN...?



AAHH!!
NOT HER!!

YOU KNOW
HER?! SPILL IT,
MINAMI-SAN.



FROM CLASS
2-A... ACCORDING
TO THE RUMORS,
SHE DECEIVES
MEN WITH HER
LOOKS.

A DEVILISH
WOMAN!!



PLEASE...
IF IT'S
NOT TOO
MUCH TO
ASK...



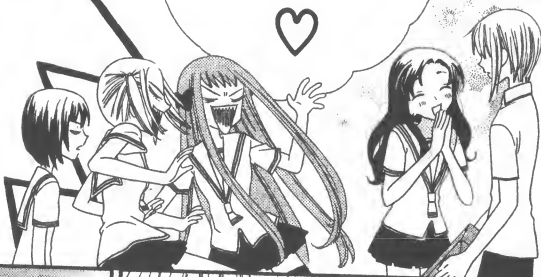
HUH
...?

...

**YUN-
YUN
!!**

YUN-YUN.

YOU CAN
SHARE
YOUR
CANDY
WITH ME
LATER,
KAY?



WH--WH-WH--
WH-WHAT
THE HELL IS
THIS?! WHO
DO YOU THINK
YOU ARE?!

y-yun-
yun...?

UM...

YOU SHOW UP
ALL OF A SUDDEN
AND, INSTEAD OF
ADDRESSING YUKI
BY HIS PROPER
NAME, YOU CALL
HIM YU-YU-YU--!!

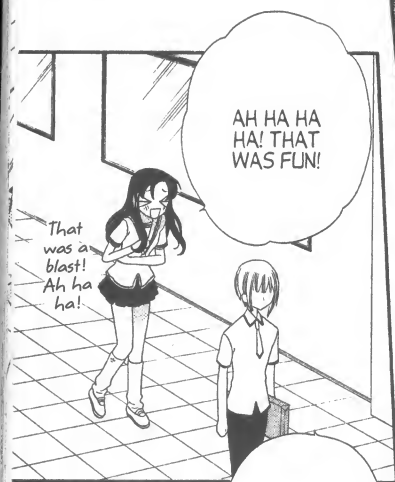
YOU SAW
RIGHT
THROUGH
ME, DIDN'T
YOU?

AH...OH NO.
I'M SCARED.

OR MAYBE
YOU'RE JUST
TRYING TO
MAKE US
JEALOUS?!

DON'T
YOU KNOW
IT ANNOYS
HIM TO BE
CALLED
STRANGE
THINGS?!





That
was a
blast!
Ah ha
ha!

AH HA HA
HA! THAT
WAS FUN!



YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T...

...LAUGH
AT PEOPLE
LIKE THAT.



...WHO ARE
YOU? WHAT'S
WITH THE
WEIRD NICK-
NAME?



WHO
.....?

EH?
?!

OH,
YOU MEAN
"YUN-YUN"?
BUT SOME-
ONE ELSE
STARTED
THAT.



LET'S...
TRY THIS
AGAIN...

YOU, COME
WITH ME.



YES,
SIR!
♡



Oh!

THERE
YOU
ARE...

Rally-
ho!

YUN-
YUUUUN!!

He grew
his hair.

OF COURSE
HE'D BE
THE ONE...

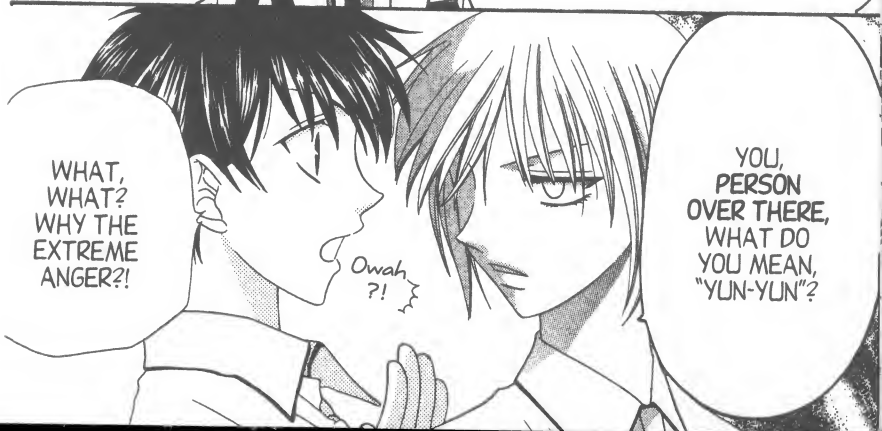
LONG LIVE
SUMMER!! IT
WOULD BE GREAT
IF MY WHOLE LIFE
WAS SUMMER!! I
MEAN, WHY DID
SCHOOL HAVE TO
START, ANYWAY?!

It's so annoying!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"YUN-YUN"...?

I THOROUGHLY
ENJOYED IT
WITH RECK-
LESS ABANDON!!
I DATED WITH
RECKLESS
ABANDON!!

LONG TIME,
NO SEE, YUN-
YUN!! HOW
WAS YOUR
SUMMER?! DID
YOU ENJOY
IT TO ITS
FULLEST?!



WHAT,
WHAT?
WHY THE
EXTREME
ANGER?!

Owah
?!

YOU,
PERSON
OVER THERE,
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"YUN-YUN"?







GRR!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING "CHIBI," YOU AMOEBA?! DON'T BE SO CRUDE!!

OOH?! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO YOUR SENPAI, CHIBI-SUKE!!

Tee hee!

THEY'RE SO CHILDISH!



You want a piece of me?!

I'm not chibi!!



CHOP!

YOUR FIRST LOVE ?!

RIVA--

GOOD LUCK, CHIBI-SUKE*. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN IN THIS ONE!



CHOP

CHOP

CAN YOU PLEASE NOT PICK FIGHTS LIKE A DRUNK PERSON?

*Chibi: runt, squirt, small person; -suke: masculine name ending.

IF THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK, KAY?



HUH...? YOU'RE A MEMBER, TOO?!



I'M KIMI TOUDOU. I'M A SECRETARY, LIKE NAOHITO.



I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF!

Oh!



SHUT UP!
HE DOESN'T
NEED TO
KNOW THAT!!

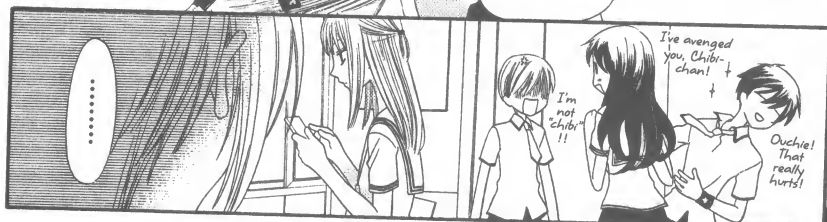
KIMI MAY
BE ACTING
LIKE THIS,
BUT REALLY,
SHE'S JUST--

KIMI WILL
DO HER
BEST FOR
YUN-YUN!

YUN-YUN,
YOU CAN
RELAX!

A
A
A
H!

O...
okay



I've avenged
you, Chibi-
chan!

I'm
not
"chibi"
!!

Ouchie!
That
really
hurts!



LEADER!

LET'S HEAR
A WORD
FROM OUR
LEADER.



I KNOW THESE
PEOPLE ARE
SUPPOSED TO BE
PRETTY BRIGHT,
BUT THEY'RE
COMING OFF AS
AWFULLY DIM
SO FAR.

I'M ALREADY
STARTING TO
REGRET THIS...

IS THIS EVEN
GOING TO BE
POSSIBLE
FOR ME...?



I...THINK
THERE ARE
MANY WAYS
IN WHICH...

...I FALL
SHORT AS
PRESIDENT.

BUT I
WON'T STOP
TRYING.

SO EVERY-
ONE...



...PLEASE
LEND ME...

...YOUR
STRENGTH.

*I SWORE TO
MYSELF...*

*...THAT I
WOULDN'T
RUN AWAY
ANYMORE.*



THAT'S
RIGHT.



I'M YUKI
SOHMA...

...YOUR NEW
STUDENT
BODY
PRESIDENT.

THE WORK OF
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL... WON'T
MOVE FORWARD
UNLESS WE ALL
WORK TOGETHER...
I THINK.

*I SWORE ON
THAT DAY...*



SURE
THING!



...I'LL
WORK HARD
TO GET THE
JOB DONE!!

THERE'S
NO POINT IN
THAT IF WE
CAN'T DO
OUR JOB.

All
right!

LET'S HAVE
FUN AND BE
FRIENDS!

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?
I SWEAR ON MY
NAME AS VICE
PRESIDENT...



I'VE CAUSED
YOU TO GO
TO SO MUCH
TROUBLE,
KUNIMITSU-
SA--

Ah
ha
ha!

I DON'T
MIND.





NO, NO. NOT
AT ALL! YOU
JUST GOT
BACK FROM
A TRIP.

PLEASE, DO NOT
WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WAS JUST TAKING
CARE OF SOME
PERSONAL
BUSINESS.



I VISITED A FRIEND
WHO LIVES FAR
AWAY...AND MY
GRANDFATHER'S
GRAVE.



I AM THE
ONE WHO
SHOULD
APOLOGIZE...

...FOR NOT
BEING HERE
WHEN YOU
CALLED.



...SO I TOOK
HIM FAR
FROM HERE.



MY GRAND-
FATHER WAS NOT
PERMITTED TO
BE BURIED IN ANY
OF THE SOHMA
GRAVES.



IS THE
SOHMA
GRAVE FAR
AWAY...?

OH...?
NO, NO.



...MY GRAND-
FATHER WAS
FINALLY
ABLE TO GO
"OUTSIDE."

BUT...I THINK
IT MAY HAVE
BEEN BETTER
THIS WAY.

IN THE
END...



BUT...

BUT
KYO-KUN
IS...ALIVE
NOW...

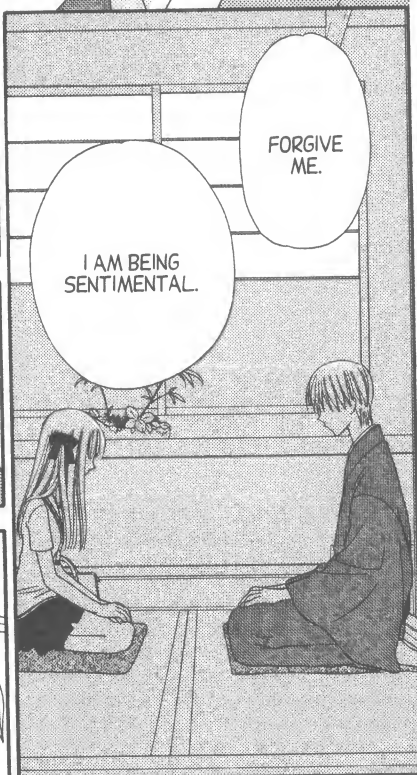


...AND HE'S
LIVING...
"OUTSIDE."



IS IT
TRUE...

...THAT SOON
HE WILL BE
CONFINED?




FORGIVE
ME.

I AM BEING
SENTIMENTAL...



SHISHOU-
SAN...



SHISHOU-
SAN, DO YOU
KNOW...?

DO YOU
KNOW...

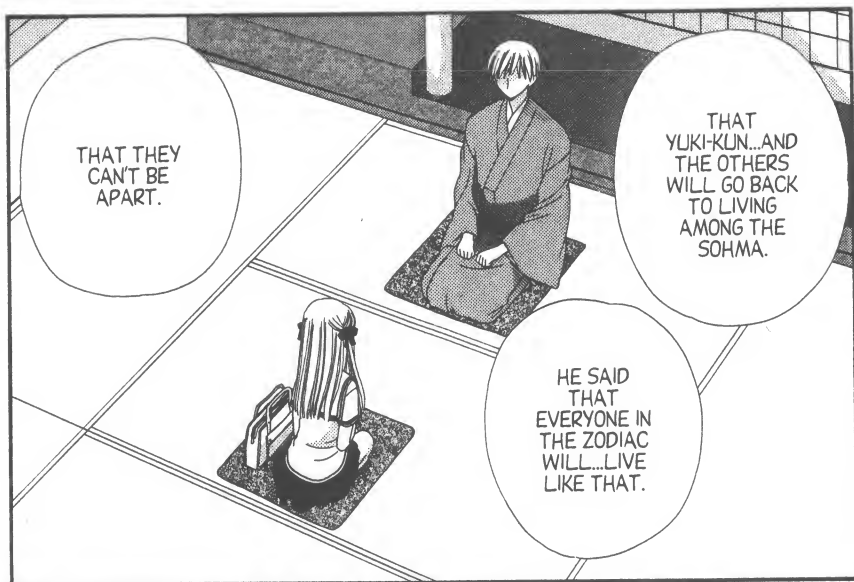


MORE
IMPORTANTLY...

DO YOU
KNOW
HOW TO
BREAK IT?

...ABOUT
THE SOHMA
CURSE?

Chapter 67





THAT
AKITO-SAN IS
EVERYONE'S...

...MASTER.

"STAY
OUT OF
IT."



...I WANT TO
BREAK THE
CURSE.

...I THINK
THAT...

...TO DESTROY
OUR 'HAPPINESS.'"

"STOP
TRYING...

THE FUTURE
THAT AKITO-
SAN TOLD
ME ABOUT...

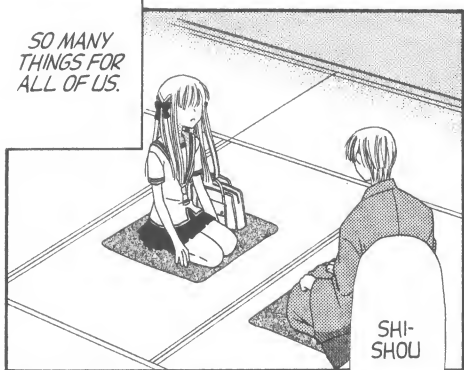
...IF IT'S
TRUE...

IT MAY BE
SELFISH OF ME
TO THINK THAT...
ESPECIALLY
WHEN I'M
RELYING ON YOU,
SHISHOU-SAN...

IF YOU KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
CURSE, PLEASE...
WOULD YOU
PLEASE
TELL ME?

...BUT I JUST
COULDN'T ASK
THE OTHERS.
PLEASE...

...IF IT'S
BECAUSE OF
THE CURSE...





THE FUTURE
YOU DESCRIBE,
WITH KYO
CONFINED...

I WILL
TELL YOU
FRANKLY.

...AND
ALL OF THE
ZODIAC LIVING
TOGETHER IN
ISOLATION...IS
QUITE LIKELY.

...BUT...

IN ANSWER
TO YOUR
QUESTION
ABOUT THE
CURSE AND
HOW TO
BREAK IT...

...I DO
NOT KNOW
CLEARLY
MYSELF.



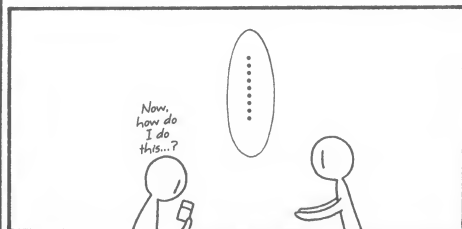
THE SAD
THING IS...

...THAT NONE
OF THEM HAS A
STRONG ENOUGH
WILL TO
OPPOSE AKITO.



OF
COURSE...

...I DO NOT
INTEND TO LET
SUCH A FUTURE
HAPPEN WITHOUT
FIGHTING IT.



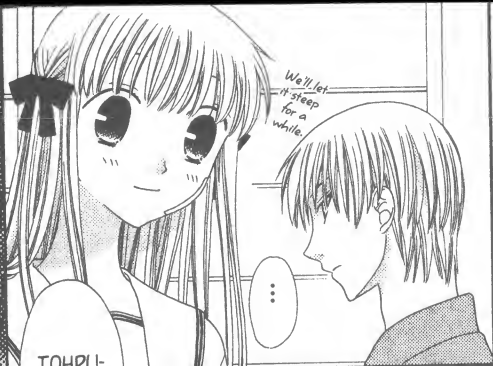
BUT TO THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC,
AKITO IS
SPECIAL

A GODLIKE
BEING, A
BEING TO BE
FEARED AND
RESPECTED.

WEAK OR
STRONG, HE
AFFECTS
THEM ALL
THE SAME.

WORDS THAT
FROM ANY
OTHER MOUTH
WOULD MAKE
THEM FLINCH...

...WHEN SAID BY
AKITO CAUSE
SUCH PAIN IN
THEIR HEARTS
THAT IT'S AS IF
THEIR BODIES
ARE BEING TORN
APART.



We'll let
it sleep
for a
while

TOHRU-
SAN...

I HAVE...

...NEVER BEEN
AFRAID OF
AKITO.



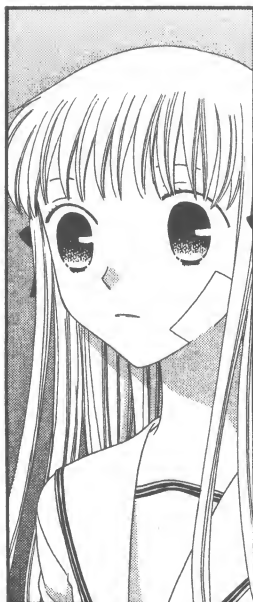
HE IS
JUST LIKE
A SMALL
CHILD.

HE ONLY
KNOWS HOW
TO SCREAM
AND CRY AS IF
HE'S ON FIRE.

A
FRAGILE...



...CRANKY
CHILD.



AKITO AND
THE JUUNISHI
EXIST IN A
WORLD OF
THEIR OWN...

...THAT
OUTSIDERS
LIKE US CAN
NEVER FULLY
UNDERSTAND.

A WORLD
THAT IS
THEIRS
ALONE.

A CONNECTION
FORMED FROM
THE BLOOD
THAT PULSES
THROUGH THEIR
BODIES.

A BOND OF
BLOOD.





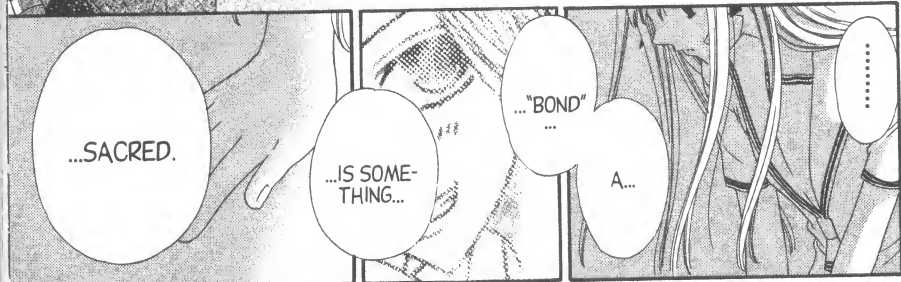
...I DO
NOT
HAVE...

...ANY
POSITIVE
PROOF.

"BECAUSE
THAT IS THE
CURSE."

...IS THE
CURSE?

THE
"BOND"...



...SACRED.

...IS SOME-
THING...

... "BOND"
...

A...

.....

IT MIGHT
NOT EVEN BE
POSSIBLE TO
BREAK IT.

...I TRULY
WOULD
DESERVE
TO BE
PUNISHED.

TO BREAK
A SACRED
BOND...

BUT...

...I WON'T GIVE
UP EASILY.

I WON'T
GIVE UP.

I WANT TO
THINK THAT
THERE'S
SOMETHING...

...SOMETHING
I CAN DO.

SO...

EH
?!

I AM
SORRY I
COULDN'T
BE OF ANY
HELP.

NO,
PLEASE
DON'T
APOLOGIZE!

...THAT
YOUR...

I HAVE TO
BELIEVE
THAT...

...NATURE?

IS...

I KEEP USING
THIS GIRL, BUT
WHAT IS IT
EXACTLY
THAT I WANT?

WHAT
AM I
LOOKING
FOR?

WHATEVER
HAPPENS, WE
SOHMA HAVE
NO ONE TO
BLAME BUT
OURSELVES.

BECAUSE
WE CAN DO
NOTHING TO
CHANGE THINGS,
WE HAVE SUNK
INTO A DARK
WORLD.

WE ARE
POWER-
LESS.

SHISHOU-
SAN?!

I'M
BEING
VERY
SELFISH.

OH, NO!
REALLY,
THAT'S--!

...FOR BEING
CONCERNED...
ABOUT KYO.

AND I
THANK
YOU...

UM-UM-UM-UM

UM...

TO BE
HONEST...


GASP!
The tea
will boil
over!

...I DIDN'T
WANT
HER TO
KNOW...

...ABOUT
HIM BEING
CONFINED.

"BUT..."

...IT'S
JUST TOO
PITIFUL,
ISN'T
IT?"



HE MIGHT
GROW TO BE
TALLER THAN
YOU, SHISHOU-
SAN!

I WOULD...

UM... IS
KYO-KUN...

...GETTING
STRONGER AND
STRONGER?!



HE'S
GOTTEN
TALLER...

AH...!

...LIKE TO
SEE THAT!

...AND I GET
THE FEELING
HIS HANDS
HAVE GOTTEN
BIGGER.



...TO
SMILE
FOR
THEM.

...IT
MAY
JUST
BE...

...ANY-
THING YOU
CAN DO...

IF
THERE
IS...

?

...SEEMS
JUST A
LITTLE
KINDER.

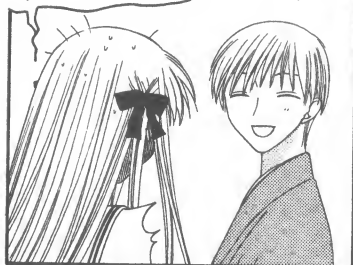
BECAUSE
WHEN YOU
SMILE...

...THE
WORLD...



UM, N-NO,
H-HE-HEAVEN
FORBID! I-!

HA HA
HA!



FOR YOU
TO JUST
BE YOUR-
SELF...

...IS A
VERY...

...IMPORTANT
THING, I THINK.

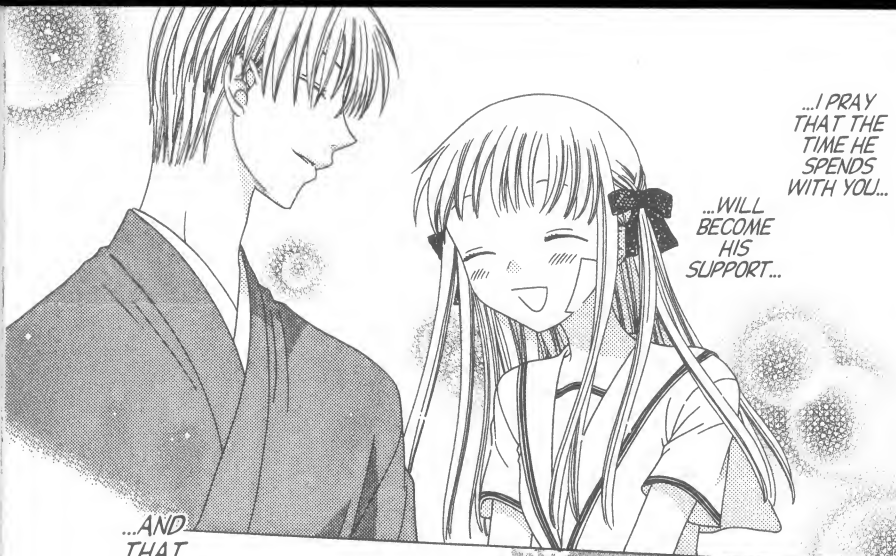
YES, OF COURSE!
I WOULD LOVE
TO SEE THAT!

PLEASE COME
VISIT AGAIN...
WITH KYO
NEXT TIME.

AND SO
DOING...

WE'LL
LET YOU
SEE A
BOUT.

!!



...I PRAY
THAT THE
TIME HE
SPENDS
WITH YOU...

...WILL
BECOME
HIS
SUPPORT...

...AND
THAT
HE'LL
FORM
A NEW
BOND.





OOOHHH,
I really,
REALLY
missed
youuu!!

...

K
Y
O
O
O
O
...

...Kun!!
♡



"VALUE THE
TIME YOU
HAVE..."

...IN THAT
HOUSE."

KYO-KUN!



"VALUE
IT."



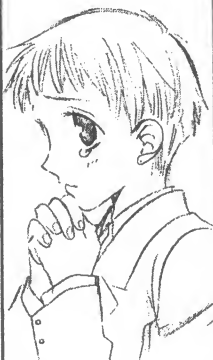
WE JUST
SAW EACH
OTHER.

NO WE
DIDN'T! WE
HAVEN'T
SEEN EACH
OTHER AT
ALL!

WHY DO YOU
ONLY COME
TO THE DOJO
THREE TIMES
A WEEK?!

You should
come every
day!!

Mitchan



Just because the cover is Ritchan (laugh). His honey. Her name is Mitsuru, but I haven't decided on a surname. When she first saw him, she was slightly attracted to Shigure, but now she strongly, deeply regrets that. Now she thinks he's evil...

Shigure makes her go to all that trouble to come get his manuscripts just to kill time. He really is evil!

There are some heartwarming(?) episodes left between her and Ritchan, but now that the main story has progressed so far, there might not be time to draw them...









I SEE.

.....

PLEASE
TAKE CARE...
GOING HOME.

Yes!

THANK YOU
FOR TODAY!



...HIS
CONFINEMENT?

IS KYO
AWARE THAT
YOU KNOW
ABOUT...

AH...NO,
I HAVEN'T
TOLD HIM.

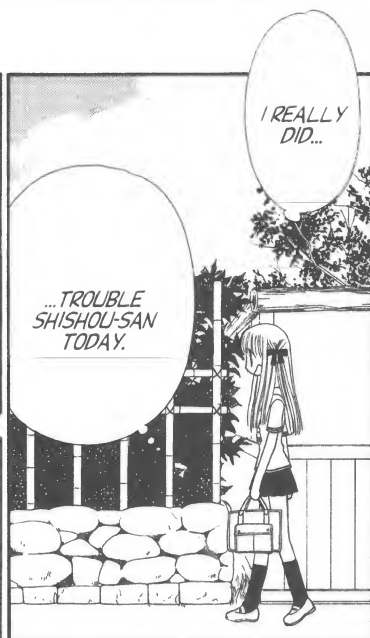


I HAVE
TO...

...THINK HARD
ABOUT WHAT
I CAN DO ABOUT
THE CURSE.

.....

"FOR YOU
TO BE YOUR-
SELF..."



I REALLY
DID...

...TROUBLE
SHISHOU-SAN
TODAY.

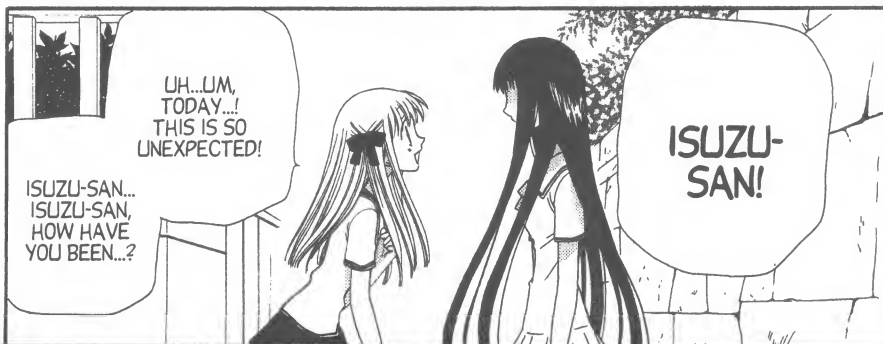


FOR ME
TO...

...BE
MYSELF...

"HONDA-
SAN..."

...YOU
SHOULD
BE YOUR-
SELF."



Gasp!
!!

ARE... ARE
YOU FEELING
BETTER
NOW?

BEFORE,
YOUR FACE
WAS SO
PALE...

YOU.

AH...

YOUR HANGING
OUT AROUND
THE SOHMA...

STOP
IT.

Aahh!

HOLD UP!
STOP!!

ISUZU-
SAN...

.....





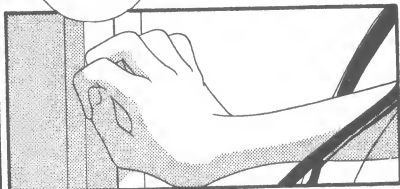
...GET INVOLVED!

I WON'T LET HER...

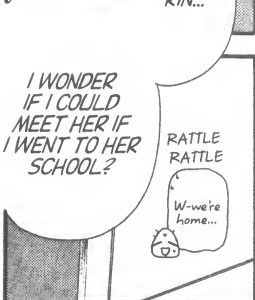


...THE SAME QUESTION YOU DID.

SHE CAME TO ASK...



I WON'T LET HER...



WAH! OF
COURSE I
DIDN'T GO
THERE
!!!

WOW!

WHERE DID
YOU GET
THOSE?!

WELCOME
BACK!

A GIFT FROM
MITCHAN TO
COMFORT ME
IN MY PRISON.

WOULD YOU
LIKE KUZU-
MOCHI* FOR
A NIGHTTIME
SNACK?

TOHRU--

**kuzumochi: chewy
cakes made from kuzu
(arrowroot), starch.*

YEAH...

WH-WHAT
DO YOU
NEED?!

N--

NOTHING!
UM, THAT
IS--!!

HUH?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

OKAY...

SO, UM...
I WON'T BE
NEEDING
DINNER.

OH...

ON
SUN-
DAY...

...I HAVE
A LITTLE
SOMETHING
TO TAKE
CARE OF,
SO I'LL BE
GOING OUT.

N--

NO, IT'S
NOTHING
LIKE THAT!!

Kyo--
Kyo-kun...?
That kind of
h-hurts...

HA HA HA!
IT MUST BE
KAGURA.

POPULAR
MEN HAVE
IT ROUGH.

Quite the ladies
man, now, aren't
you?

SHEESH.

Sigh...

A
DATE?

THAT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
THIS!

TH--

Kyo-
kun,
let her
go.

ANYWAY...

SNAP☆

I'M
APPALLED.

YOU HAVE
TIME TO GO
ON DATES...

...BUT YOU DON'T
HAVE TIME TO
PICK UP TOHRU
FROM WORK?



ANYWAY,
THAT'S
YOUR
JOB!!

HEY...!

WHAT'S
WITH THOSE
"AREN'T-YOU-
STUPID" EYES?!

...



Just a little
startled, you okay?



sigh

Why-
why-
why did it
turn
into
this?!

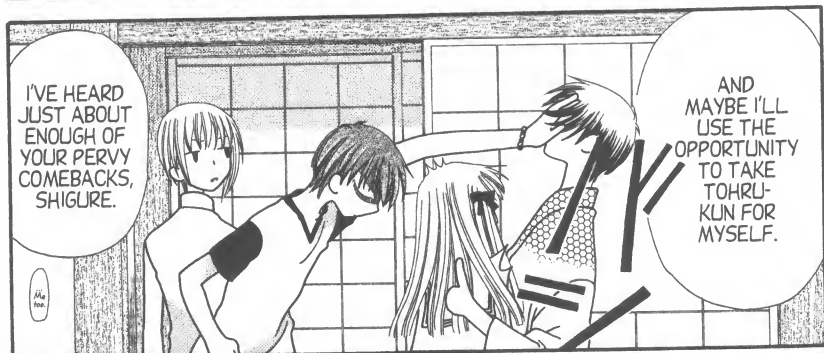
EH?! EH?!
EH?!

G
R
A
A
H
R
!!

OR YOU
COULD TRY
SAYING IT
WITH YOUR
FISTS!!

IF YOU GOT A
PROBLEM, SAY
IT OUT LOUD!
WITH YOUR
MOUTH!!

GOOD
GRIEF. YES,
GO AT IT,
YOU TWO.



I'VE HEARD
JUST ABOUT
ENOUGH OF
YOUR PERVY
COMEBACKS,
SHIGURE.

AND
MAYBE I'LL
USE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO TAKE
TOHRU-
KUN FOR
MYSELF.



WHAT
YOU GIVE TO
EVERYONE.

THE GIFT
THAT POURS
OUT...



Oh, not
A new
bleed!

Eh?!

He's
Himura
Himura-
san.

YOU
DON'T SEE
IT YOUR-
SELF...

...FROM YOUR
HEART.



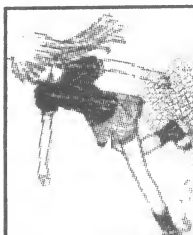
Chapter 68

...I HAD
TO
TELL
YOU.

...THERE
WAS
SOME-
THING...

"THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TELL YOU."

YOU KNOW,
ACTUALLY
...

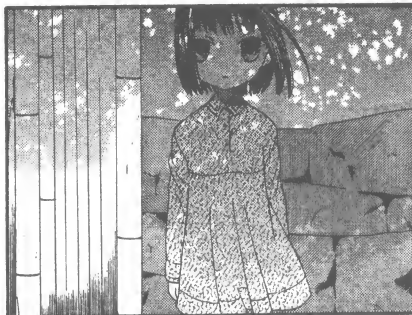


...ON
THAT
DAY...

I UNDER-
STOOD...

...I CALLED
OUT TO YOU,
KYO-KUN.

...THE REAL
REASON...



THE FIRST
REASON
I STARTED
LIKING YOI,
KYO-KUN.

KYO-
KUUNUN!





OVER
HERE!!

KYO-KUN,
THIS WAY!!



KYO-KUN, I'M
IMPRESSED!!
YOU CAME, AND
RIGHT ON TIME!

SHEESH,
YOU'RE
LOUD...



HUH? UM...
YEAH... I
GUESS I AM.

ARE YOU
IMPRESSED
?!

BUT I GOT
HERE HALF
AN HOUR
AGO!

THE ONLY
REASON
WE'RE OUT
TOGETHER
TODAY...

BUT,
KYO-
KUN...

...IS
BECAUSE
I HALF-
THREATENED
HIM.

"IF YOU GO ON
A DATE WITH
ME, I'LL LISTEN
TO WHAT YOU
HAVE TO SAY!"

WE NEVER
GET TO GO
OUT, SO TRY
TO ACT A
LITTLE MORE
CHEERFUL!

YOU'RE NOT
EXCITED
ENOUGH!

YOU'RE TOO
EXCITED.

'CUZ IF
YOU DID,
THERE'S NO
ONE WHO
WOULD...

NO, I'M
NOT.

YOU STILL
DON'T WATCH
TV OR ANY-
THING, DO
YOU?

...GET
MAD AT
YOU ANY-
MORE.

YEAH,
SORT OF.

WELL? HAVE
YOU DECIDED
WHERE WE'RE
GOING?

I THOUGHT
WE'D START
WITH A MOVIE
OR SOMETHING,
BUT YOU'RE NOT
INTERESTED IN
MOVIES.

Right,
Kyo-
kun?







SAY...



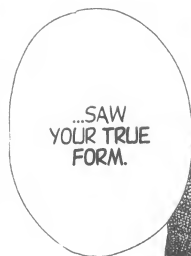
Motoko
Minagawa



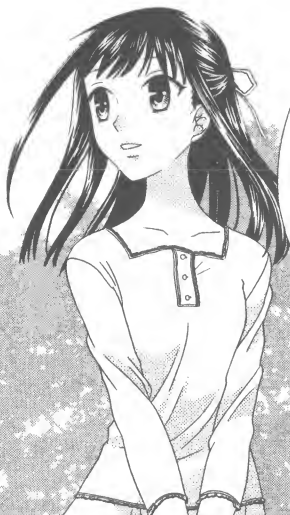
Motoko "Yuki is my life!" Minagawa-san. I predicted this, but when she first showed up, I got a lot of letters from people saying they hated her. One of my favorite letters said, "She's the rival, so why do you draw her so pretty?" Of course, I enjoy drawing Motoko. Well, basically, I enjoy drawing girls (laugh). So, you go, Motoko!



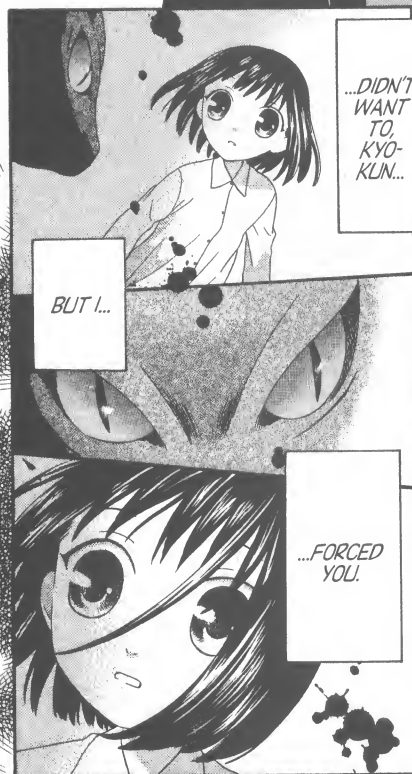




...SAW
YOUR TRUE
FORM.



...THE
PLACE
I FIRST...



...DIDN'T
WANT
TO,
KYO-
KUN...



BUT I...



...FORCED
YOU!



YOU...



...LET ME
WEAR THOSE
BEADS."



"HEY,
JUST FOR A
LITTLE!"

JUST FOR
A LITTLE
BIT...





I THOUGHT
I WAS THE
WORST
PERSON
ON EARTH.

WHEN I
WAS YOUNG...
MY PARENTS
OFTEN FOUGHT
BECAUSE OF ME.

WHenever
I saw mama
crying by her-
self after-
wards...

...IT
MADE ME
REALLY
SAD.

BACK
THEN...

...I HATED
MYSELF
SO MUCH, I
COULDN'T
STAND IT.

I WAS THE
ONE WHO
STARTED
DISTANCING
HERSELF
FIRST.

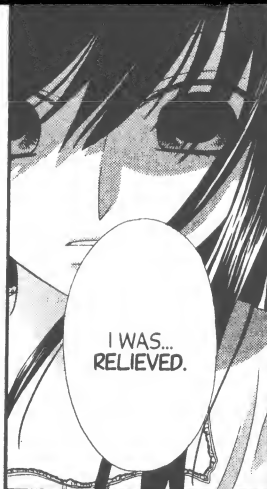
KYO-
KUN...

YOU
KNOW,
I...

I... I WAS
SAD THAT
I WAS BORN...

...POS-
SESSED BY
A VENGEFUL
SPIRIT.

AFTER
ALL...



I WAS...
RELIEVED.



.....



...I WAS
HAPPY.



BUT
THEN...

...ON THE
DAY I FIRST
MET YOU,
KYO-KUN...



...I HAD IT
EASY.

I REALIZED
THAT...

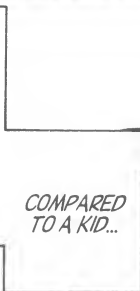
...COMPARED
TO THE CAT...



...ALL
BY HIM-
SELF...



...WHO DREW
FRIED EGGS
IN THE DIRT...



COMPARED
TO A KID...



COM-
PAR-
ED
TO...



...LOOKING
DOWN ON YOU,
KYO-KUN.

THAT'S
WHY...

...I WAS
WITH YOU.



I WASN'T
PITIED AND
I WASN'T
OSTRACIZED.

...I
WASN'T
SO BAD
AFTER
ALL.



NOT LIKE
THIS BOY...

YES...

I WAS
ALWAYS...

BECAUSE
I REALIZED
I COULD FEEL
GOOD ABOUT
MYSELF.



.....



...DIRTY.

*IT'S
TERRIBLE,
ISN'T IT?*

*I FEEL
SO...*

*...
SEEMED
DIRTY.*

*...I WAS
AFRAID
WITH ALL
MY HEART.
THAT PART
OF ME...*

*THAT
DAY...*

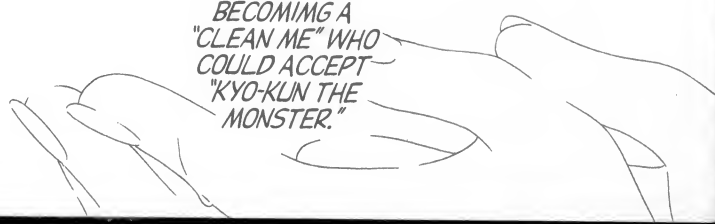
*...I RAN
AWAY
FROM
YOU...*

*...TO FORGET
IT EVER
HAPPENED.*

*I WANTED
YOU...*

*I HATED IT.
I WANTED
TO DO IT
OVER AGAIN.*

*IT SEEMED
SO DIRTY I
COULDN'T
STAND IT.*



*I DREAMED OF
BECOMING A
"CLEAN ME" WHO
COULD ACCEPT
"KYO-KUN THE
MONSTER."*



...THEN THE
ME THAT RAN
AWAY--THE
DIRTY ME...

I DIDN'T EVEN
REALIZE HOW
DIRTY THAT
THOUGHT
ITSELF WAS.

I THOUGHT
THAT IF I
COULD LIKE
YOU, KYO-
KUN...

...WOULD
BE WASHED
AWAY.

THAT'S
WHAT I
BELIEVED.

IT
WAS...

IF I COULD
SHORTEN THE
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
US...

...AND
IF YOU
WOULD
LIKE ME
BACK...

...A
FORCED
LOVE.

...I WAS
ONLY CHASING
AFTER YOU FOR
MYSELF.

I NEVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
FEELINGS I
MUST HAVE
HURT AFTER
I DESERTED
YOU, KYO-
KUN.

...I
REALIZED
...

BUT
THEN...

...WHEN I
SAW HER
CHASING
AFTER
YOU...

...JUST
HOW
FOOLISH
I WAS.

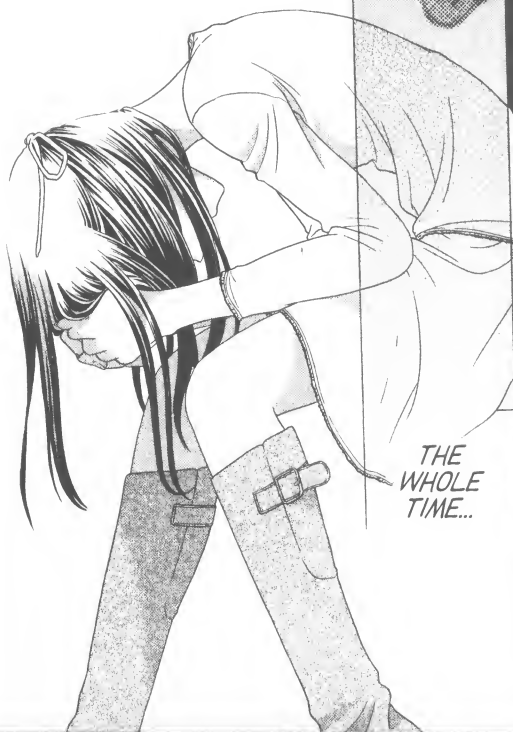
I WAS
BLIND TO
YOUR PAIN,
KYO-KUN.

I NEVER
THOUGHT
OF YOUR
NEEDS.

YES,
IN THE
END...

...IT WAS
ALL ABOUT
MYSELF.

THE
WHOLE
TIME...



THE
WHOLE
TIME...

I'M SORRY,
KYO-KUN.

I'M
SORRY...

YOU...

EVEN
THOUGH,
BEING
DESERTED...
...THERE'S
NOWAY YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
SAD

I'M
SORRY...

...ON MY
BEHALF.

YOU DON'T
NEED TO
SAY THESE
THINGS...

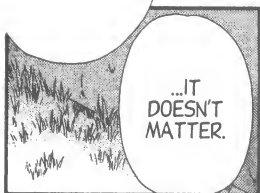
I KNOW
THIS IS
PAINFUL
FOR YOU.



I JUST...
WANTED TO
TELL YOU
THAT.



LOOKING
DOWN ON ME,
USING ME...



...IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.



I WILL
NEVER...

...**"LIKE"**
YOU.



...TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR.

THERE'S
NOTHING
FOR YOU...



KAGURA...

I...

...WON'T
"LIKE" YOU.



MY
CONFESSION.

BUT I
WANTED TO
SAY IT...



BUT...



...DON'T
HAVE TO
BE SO
NICE
EITHER
WAY...

...I KNEW
THAT
IT WAS
HOPELESS.



YOU...

NOW
THAT I FEEL
BETTER,
I'M KIND OF
HUNGRY.



AAHHH,
I FEEL
BETTER!

I'M GLAD
I COULD
SAY IT.



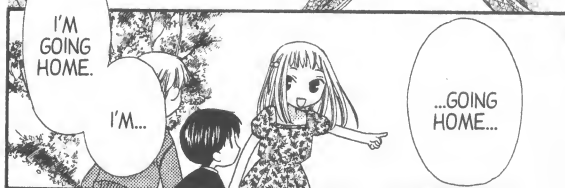
KYO-
KUN...

HOW
WOULD
YOU
REACT...

WOULD
YOU CRY
FROM
RELIEF?

I GUESS
YOU
WOULD.

...IF I TOLD
YOU THAT
SOMEWHERE
IN MY HEART,
I'VE GIVEN
UP?



I'M
GOING
HOME.

I'M...

...GOING
HOME...



...WHEN
YOU PLAYED
WITH ME...

...I WAS
HAPPY.

KAGURA
...

REGARDLESS
OF WHAT
YOUR REASON
WAS...

AT THAT TIME,
PART OF ME
KNEW...

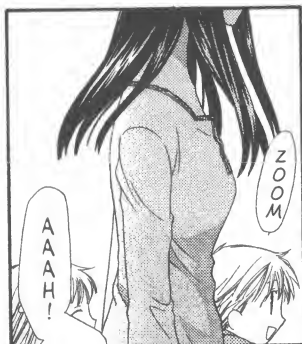
...THAT I'D
NEVER BE ABLE
TO TRULY GET
CLOSE TO YOU.

BUT I
STILL...



...TRIED TO
CONVINCE
MYSELF THAT
I COULD CLOSE
THE SPACE
BETWEEN US.





THERE
WAS A
PART OF
ME...

KYO-
CHAN!

KYO-
CHAN...!

...THAT
CHASED
AFTER HIM
BECAUSE...

KYO-
CHAN...

KYO-
CHAN...

...I
WANTED
TO...

KYO-
CHAN...

I DO
LOVE
YOU...



I LOVE
YOU!

BELIEVE
ME.

BELIEVE
ME!

BELIEVE
ME.



THANK
YOU.

.....

THANK
YOU...



KAGURA?

YOU LOOK...
WHAT'S
WRONG?

IT'S NOTHING.
I'M...GOING
TO BED.

DON'T
TELL ME IT'S
NOTHING. YOUR
EYES ARE SO
SWOLLEN...

DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN?

YOU POOR
THING!







FEELINGS
OF PAIN.
FEELINGS OF
HAPPINESS...

THEY
ARE MINE
ALONE.

...IS MINE
ALONE.

JUST LIKE
THE KYO-
KUN, FROM
BACK THEN...

OH,
KYO-
KUN...

HE SAID,
"THANK
YOU."

...HE
DIDN'T
SAY, "I'M
SORRY."

UNLIKE
ME...

AT LEAST
UNTIL...

YOU
STAYED BY
ME UNTIL
I STOPPED
CRYING.

JUST
YOU,
KYO-
KUN.

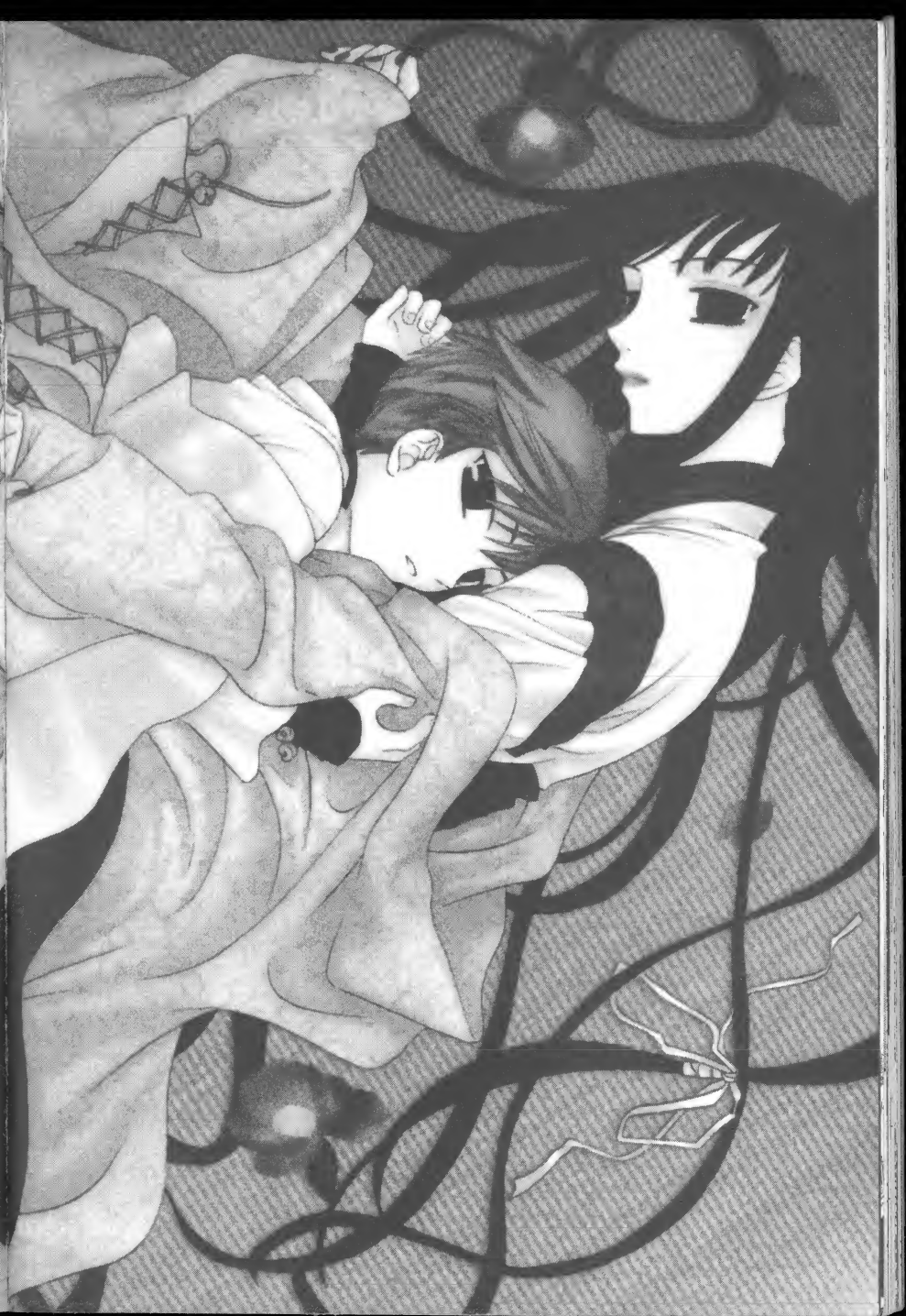
...THIS
NIGHT IS
OVER.

BE MINE
ALONE...



Filler
Sketch







Chapter 69

Filler
Sketch



It's Rin. Drawing her is fun, but inking her in is too hard!



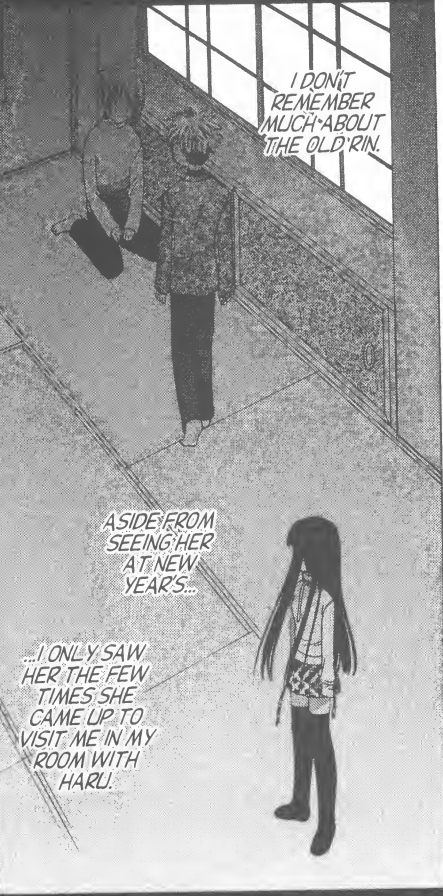
SHE WOULD
ALWAYS
KEEP QUIET...

...AND SIT BY
HERSELF IN
THE CORNER.



BEFORE I
COULD SAY
ANYTHING...

...SHE WOULD
GET UP.



I DON'T
REMEMBER
MUCH ABOUT
THE OLD RIN.

ASIDE FROM
SEEING HER
AT NEW
YEARS...

...I ONLY SAW
HER THE FEW
TIMES SHE
CAME UP TO
VISIT ME IN MY
ROOM WITH
HARU.



I WONDERED...

...IF THAT
WAS ALL
SHE WAS
GOING
TO DO.

...THEN
WHY...



...DID SHE
BOTHR TO
COME OVER
IN THE FIRST
PLACE?



"I'VE HAD
ENOUGH."

"I'M GOING
HOME."

GRANDPA IS
BEDRIDDEN?!

BUT...

WHAT?!



SO HOW
IS...HE...?

AH.

UM, S--

CALM
DOWN,
TOHRU-
CHAN.

PARENT-
TEACHER...
CONFERENCE?

AH! YES,
IT'S VERY
SOON.

I WONDER
WHAT WE
SHOULD DO
ABOUT THAT.

Your grandfather's
in no condition to...

...YOUR
PARENT-
TEACHER
CONFERENCE
IS COMING
UP, RIGHT?

OH,
AND...

HE JUST
THREW
OUT HIS
BACK, IS
ALL.

HE'S
SLEEPING AT
HOME RIGHT
NOW.

AH, UM,
UM... IS HE
WELL...?

You mustn't
under-
estimate
back
strain...

HE'S FINE. THE
DOCTOR SAID
HE SHOULD
STAY PUT FOR
A WHILE.



Mio Yamagishi



Well, I drew Motoko, so let's do Mio while I'm at it (laugh). Mio is the lowest-ranking and most docile member of the Prince Yuki Club, but I think she may also be the shyest. Kind of like, "When I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna do it, even if I have to drag others down!" (Do what?) But really...I think I wrote this before, but when Mio becomes the president of Pri-Yuki, Yuki will have already graduated! ...What will she do? (laugh)



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.



SHIGURE...

Nn?

BUT WE HAD FINISHED SPEAKING.

YOU CAN'T JUST HANG UP LIKE THAT.



I'll be going in his place!



AND ABOUT THE PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE ...

TOHRU-KUN, SHE SAYS YOU CAN GO VISIT YOUR GRANDFATHER TOMORROW.

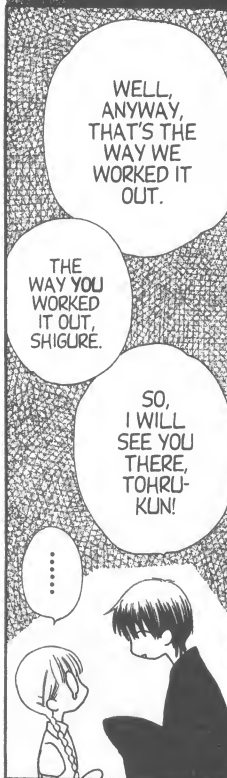
EH? OH, YES...!



ANOTHER OF
YOUR CRAZY
SCHEMES,
HUH?

OH? IS IT
REALLY SOME-
THING TO BE
APPALLED BY?

Where's
the
thanks?



WELL,
ANYWAY,
THAT'S THE
WAY WE
WORKED IT
OUT.

THE
WAY YOU
WORKED
IT OUT,
SHIGURE.

SO,
I WILL
SEE YOU
THERE,
TOHRU-
KUN!

.....



OF
COURSE
IT'S NO
TROUBLE.

AH
Ha
Ha!

Calm down.

EH, UH, UM, BUT
SHIGURE-SAN, THIS,
I MEAN, I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY EVER
MAKE YOU GO TO SO
MUCH TROUBLE!!



I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT!

I CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE THE
DISGUSTED
LOOK ON YOUR
FACE WHEN I
SURPRISE YOU,
MAYU-CHAN!

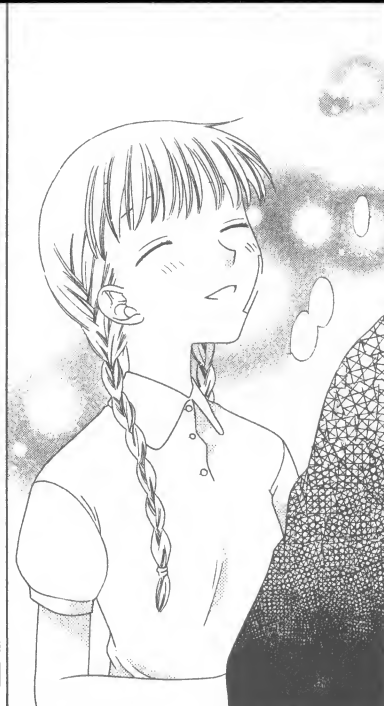
It'll be
fun!



ARE YOU
GOING TO
SEE HIM
TOMORROW?

Yes...





IT'S NOT
THAT I DON'T
WANT TO.

I'M JUST
LOST AS
TO...

...WHAT
MY TOP
PRIORITY
SHOULD
BE.



OK?

YOUR
GRANDPA
THREW HIS
BACK OUT?

THINGS
TO PUT IN
ORDER...

...THINGS
I OUGHT
TO SETTLE.
THINGS
I SHOULD
REALIZE...

...STARTING
NOW.

THERE ARE
STILL SOME
PROBLEMS...

...I'M HOLDING
OFF ON
ADDRESSING.





Hee hee!

Are you sure?

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S KYO?

Haven't seen him in a while.



Ah!

KYO-KUN IS PROBABLY

...

HONDA-SAN... YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE HARU TOO SERIOUSLY.

R-R-REALLY?!

EH?!

A MAN'S BACK IS HIS LIFE.



...ON THE ROOF... MAYBE.

FOR SOME REASON

...



...I THINK...

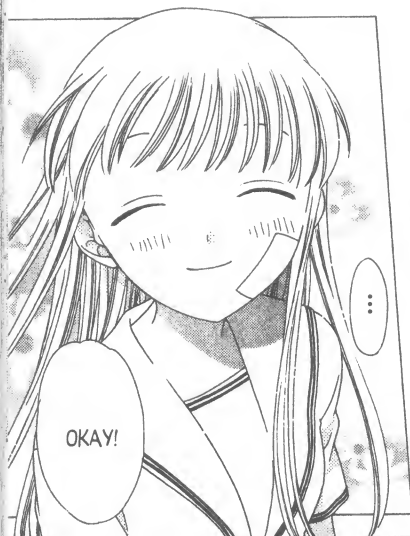


HAARUUU!

Don't look at my eyes while you say that!

...HE SEEMS DOWN.

A MAN'S "BLUE DAY"...?



OKAY!



THAT'S NO
REASON FOR
YOU TO BE
DOWN, TOO,
TOHRU!

Okay?

LET'S HAVE
SOME JUICE!
LET'S GO BUY
SOME!



YEAH,
YEAH.

You two,
come
along!



NOTHING
...

...NEW HAS
HAPPENED.



HOW HAVE
THINGS BEEN
WITH RIN...
SINCE THEN?

HARU...



I'll have
apple
juice.

MOMIJI IS
LIKE AN AIR-
PURIFIER.



"I DON'T
NEED YOU
ANYMORE."

"I'M TIRED
OF YOU."

...WHAT SHE
SAID REALLY IS
THE WAY SHE
FEELS.



WHY?

IT'S JUST...
RIN SEEMS SO
STUBBORN.

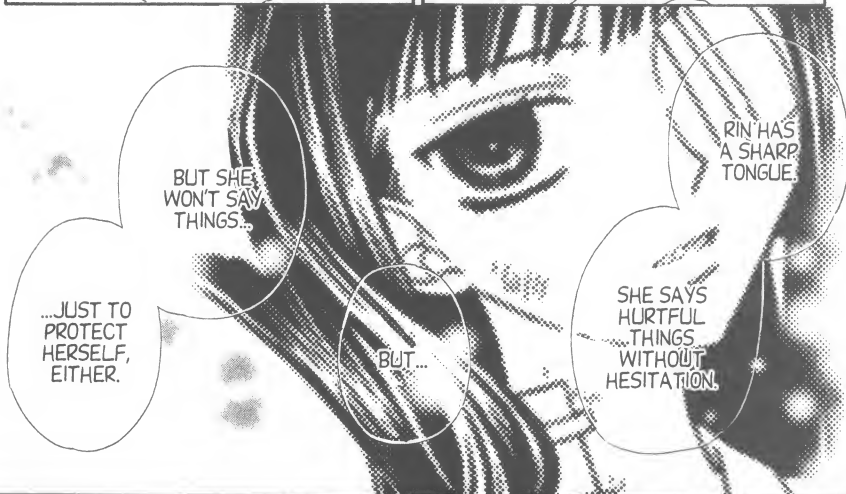
I KNOW
IT MUST BE
HARD TO TALK
ABOUT THINGS
WITH HER.



YEAH...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

BUT...

...THE MORE
TIME PASSES,
THE MORE
I THINK...



BUT SHE
WON'T SAY
THINGS...

...JUST TO
PROTECT
HERSELF,
EITHER.

BUT...

RIN HAS
A SHARP
TONGUE.

SHE SAYS
HURTFUL
THINGS
WITHOUT
HESITATION.



...I DON'T
HAVE ANY
CONFIDENCE
AFTER ALL.

I THINK
THAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
HOW SHE
REALLY
FEELS.

IT
SEEMS...



I GUESS
I'M JUST
SCARED.

...HER
WORDS
HURT ME...

MAYBE...

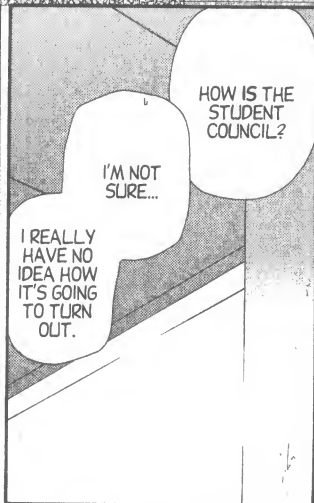


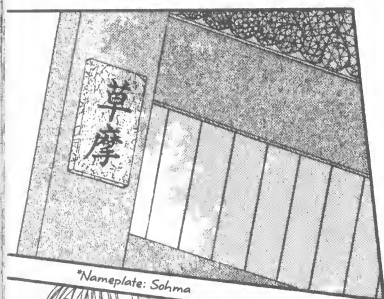
AH...

HUH?

...HM...

...MORE THAN
I REALIZED.





Nameplate: Sohma



OH MY!

WELCOME HOME.

WELCOME HOME, YUKI-SAN!



YUKI!
HARU!

Hurry
up,
slow-
pokes!

UH...

YEAH.



IF YOU HAD
LET US KNOW
YOU WERE COMING,
MADAME WOULDN'T
HAVE GONE OUT.

SHE SAID
SHE'D BE
BACK THIS
EVENING.



OH...

三者面談のお知らせ

JUST MAKE
SURE SHE
GETS THAT.

I'LL BE
IN TOUCH
LATER.

IT TOOK
A LOT OF
ENERGY FOR
ME TO DRAG
MYSELF
HERE...

Paper: Parent-Teacher Conference Notice



HIS CONDITION
SEEMS TO
HAVE IMPROVED
RECENTLY.

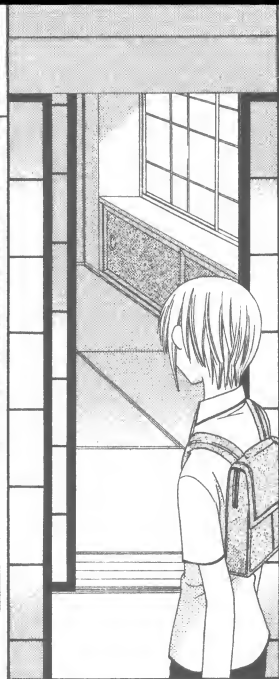
YOU WON'T
BE WAITING
FOR HER?

IT SEEMS
THE HEAD OF
THE FAMILY
IS OUT AS
WELL...

WHERE'S
AKITO?

...BUT, AS
USUAL,
SHE'S
NOT EVEN
HOME.

HERE.



ARE YOU
HOME FROM
SCHOOL
ALREADY?

KAGURA
...?

NO... TODAY I'M
DITCHING. I'VE
BEEN OUT ON
A WALK.



YUN-
CHAN!!

GOODNESS!
WHAT'S
UP? THIS IS
UNUSUAL!



AND SOME-
TIMES SHE
DOESN'T EVEN
SHOW UP AT
SCHOOL..

THERE ARE A
LOT OF DAYS
WHEN SHE
DOESN'T EVEN
COME HOME.

SHE'S AN
ENIGMA...



PERFECT.
CAN I ASK
YOU SOME-
THING?

YEAH.

RIN IS
STAYING AT
YOUR HOUSE,
RIGHT?

IF I
WAITED, DO
YOU THINK I
COULD SEE
HER?



I WONDER...

HMM...



YOUR EYES...
ARE SWOLLEN
...

SO SOMETHING
DID HAPPEN
YESTERDAY...
WITH KYO?

YEAH. BUT
WHY?

*I never
would have
guessed Yun-
chan would
be worried
about Isuzu.*

I SEE...

NOTHING,
REALLY. I
SORT OF
WANT TO
TALK TO
HER...



...TOHRU-
KUN?

EVEN
TO...

...

...WAS
DEPRESSED,
TOO.



HE'S BEEN
SORT OF...
DISTANT,
I GUESS.



I GUESS IT'S
WHAT YOU'D
CALL A RUDE
AWAKENING...

OR, MAYBE...
THE WEIGHT
OF RESPON-
SIBILITY?

OH...NEVER
MIND. FORGET
I ASKED.

IT'S JUST THAT
I'M FIGHTING
THE PAIN OF
LOST LOVE.

Heh heh...

TO FEEL THAT
WAY ABOUT
SOMEONE...

...WITH SUCH
CONVICTION...

BUT I'M
FINE.

I'M FINE.
CARING FOR
SOMEONE...

...ISN'T
BASED ON
LOGIC.

...IT'S ALL
OVER.

YOU CAN'T
REALLY
RATIONALIZE
EMOTIONS.

ONCE
I THINK
"I LIKE
HIM"...

Bye-bye!
See you
later.

Bye-
bye!



IT MAKES
ME...

...IT SEEMS
LIKE HE
KNOWS
EXACTLY
WHERE SHE
STANDS.

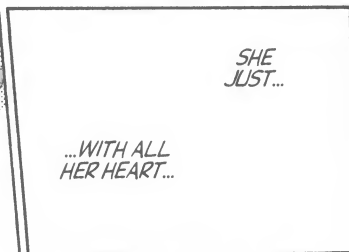
...JEALOUS.

BECAUSE...



SHE'S NOT
LOST, LIKE
I AM...

...RIGHT
NOW.



SHE
JUST...

...WITH ALL
HER HEART...





RIN...
WHAT...

...ARE YOU
DOING?

SO
CLOSE
TO MY
HOUSE?

RIN... DID
YOU MEAN
THE THINGS
YOU SAID...

...WHEN
YOU
BROKE
UP WITH
HARU?

.....

WAI--!
RIN!

RIN, WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING? WHY
ARE YOU
ALONE?

WAIT!!
LISTEN
TO ME!!

WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO DO?



WHEN I WAS
STILL IN
THAT ROOM...

...YOU AND
HARU WOULD
COME VISIT
ME TOGETHER,
RIGHT?

AND
YOU WOULD
ALWAYS SAY,
"I'M GOING
HOME."

*"I'VE HAD
ENOUGH."*



I HEARD
FROM
HARU...

...THAT YOU
TWO WERE
GOING OUT.



THERE'S
SOMETHING...
I REMEMBERED
RECENTLY.

RIN... I...



...IT WAS RIGHT
BEFORE SOMEONE
WOULD COME TO
CHECK ON ME.

...IT
SEEMED
LIKE...



BUT...

...NOW THAT
I THINK ABOUT
IT, EVERY TIME
YOU SAID THAT
AND LEFT...



THAT WAS
DEFINITELY IT.

...BUT HARU
WOULD COME
TO SEE ME,
ANYWAY.

BACK THEN,
AKITO WOULDN'T
HAVE ALLOWED
ANYONE IN MY
ROOM...

RIN, YOU
WERE...

...PROTECTING
HIM, WEREN'T
YOU?

...SO THAT
HARU WOULDN'T
GET IN TROUBLE.

YOU KEPT
GUARD SO THAT
IF ANYONE WAS
COMING DOWN
THE HALL...

...YOU COULD
STALL
THEM...

"RIN..."

"I'VE HAD
ENOUGH.
I'M GOING
HOME."

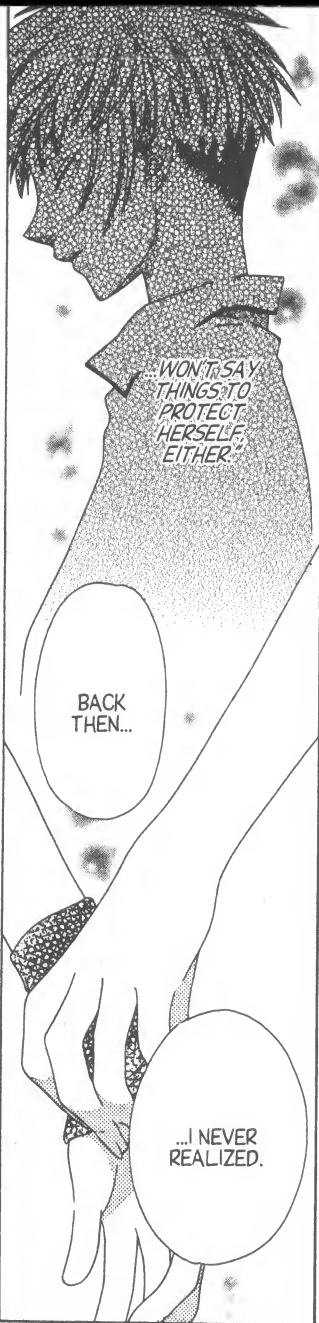


...TO PROTECT
HARU FROM
SOMETHING,
AREN'T YOU?

BUT
EVEN
NOW...

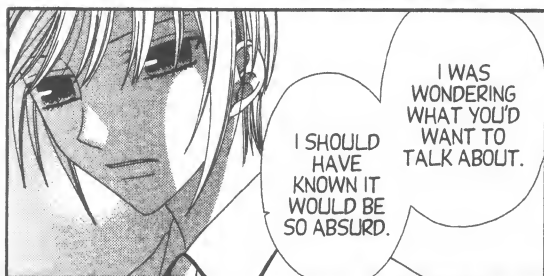
EVEN
NOW, RIN...

...YOU'RE
TRYING...



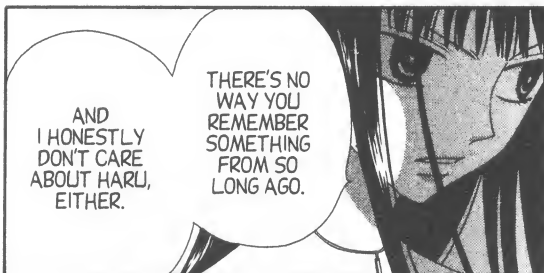
...WON'T SAY
THINGS TO
PROTECT
HERSELF,
EITHER.

BACK
THEN...



I SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN IT
WOULD BE
SO ABSURD.

I WAS
WONDERING
WHAT YOU'D
WANT TO
TALK ABOUT.



AND
I HONESTLY
DON'T CARE
ABOUT HARU,
EITHER.

THERE'S NO
WAY YOU
REMEMBER
SOMETHING
FROM SO
LONG AGO.

...I NEVER
REALIZED.



YOU'RE JUST
AN IDIOT WHO
DOESN'T KNOW
ANYTHING.

WHY ARE
YOU ALWAYS
SO EAGER
TO TALK,
ANYWAY?

I THOUGHT
I TOLD YOU
THAT IT'S MY
BUSINESS.

ANYWAY,
TALKING ISN'T
GOING TO HELP
ANYTHING.



...AT
GURE-NII'S
HOUSE?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHY...

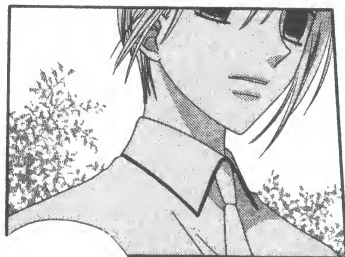
...YOU'RE
ABLE TO
LIVE...



HE WANTED
TO HELP YOU.

...TO GET
YOU OUT
OF THERE.

HARU
BEGGED
HIM...



"ISN'T IT
A GOOD
THING..."



"...THAT YOU
CAN LIVE
AT SENSEI'S
HOUSE?"

"HUH...?
HARU, DID
YOU ALWAYS
CALL SHIGURE
SENSEI?"



"YUP."

"BECAUSE
SENSEI'S A
SENSEI."

AND IDIOT
THAT HE IS,
HARU'S KEPT
HIS PROMISE.



"WANT
TO COME
STAY..."

"...AT MY
HOUSE?"



AT THE
TIME...

"...GURE-NII
STUPIDLY
SAID, 'I WILL IF
YOU CALL ME
SENSEI.'"

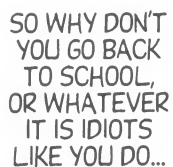


BUT THE
BIGGEST
IDIOT...

...IS
YOU.



YOU
PIECE
OF
SHIT!!



SO WHY DON'T
YOU GO BACK
TO SCHOOL,
OR WHATEVER
IT IS IDIOTS
LIKE YOU DO...

...AND
DON'T EVER
BOTHR ME
AGAIN?!

COME ON,
NOW. HE'S
NOT AS BAD
AS THAT.

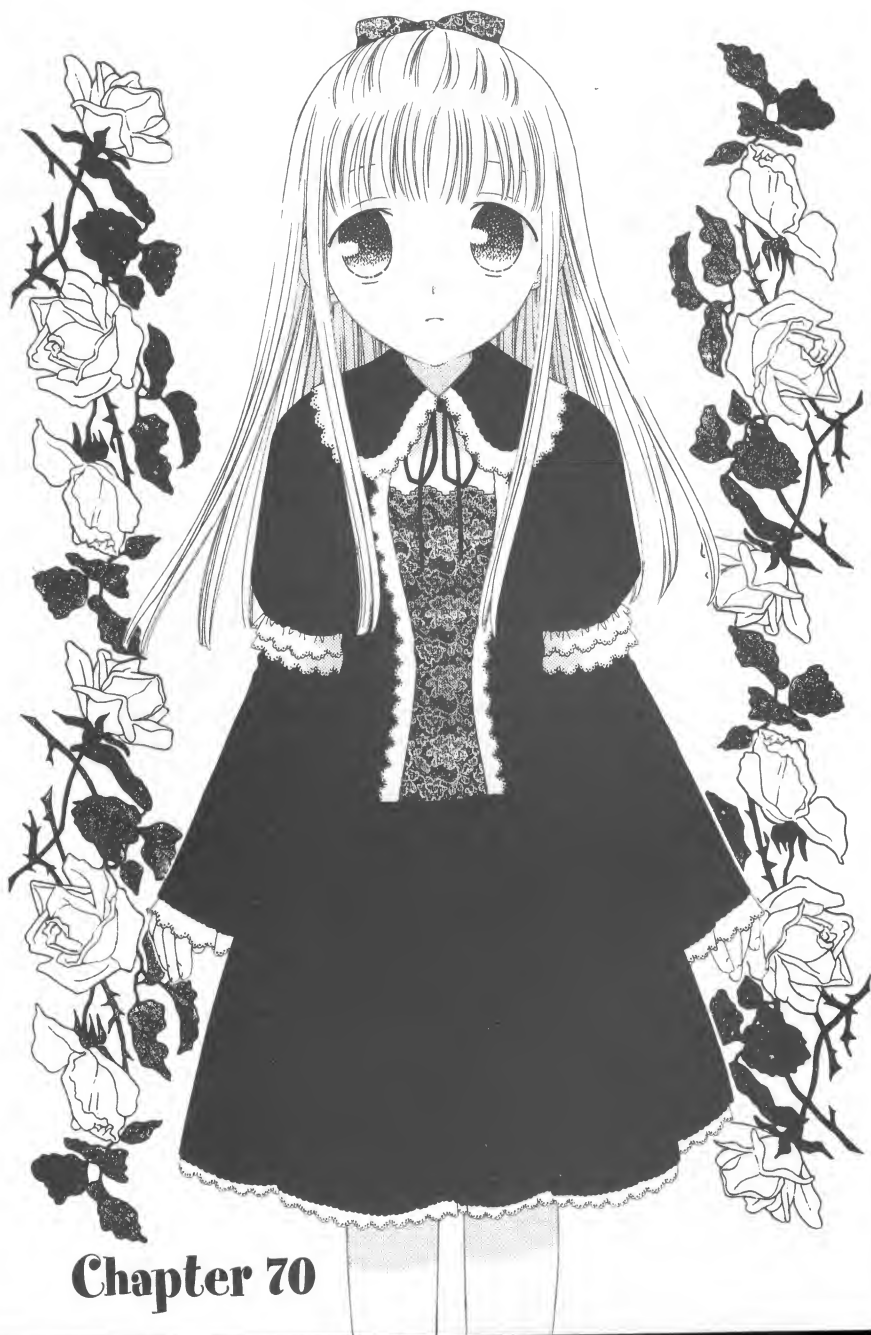


...RIN.

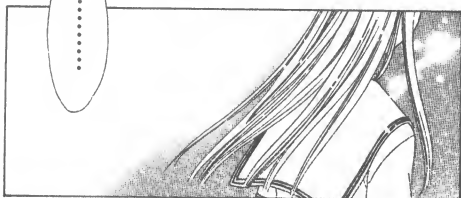
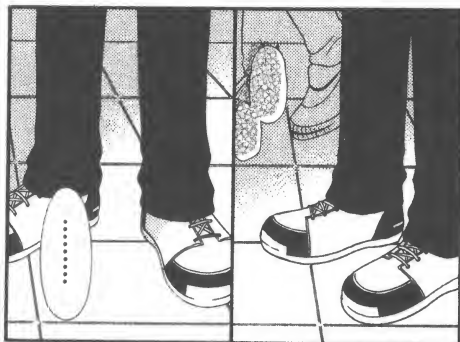


IT'S NOT
NICE...

...TO CALL
PEOPLE
PIECES OF
SHIT...



Chapter 70





...VISIT
SENSEI'S
HOUSE.

I CAME
TO...

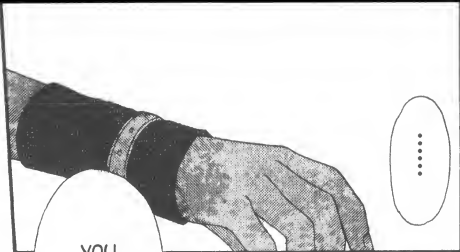


...HARU?

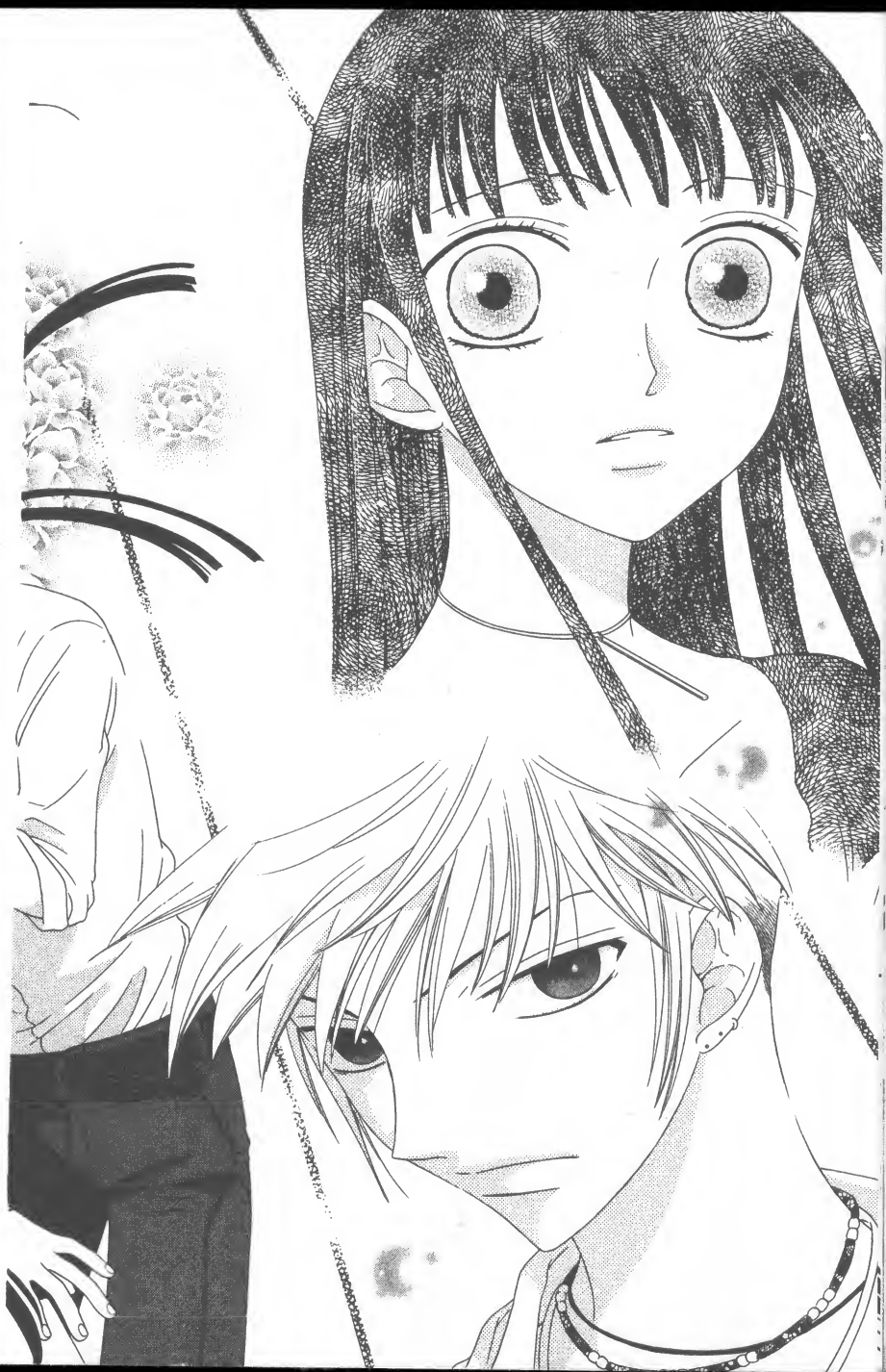
WHAT
ARE
YOU...

...DOING
HERE...?





IN THAT CASE...







OF COURSE
I'M LYING...

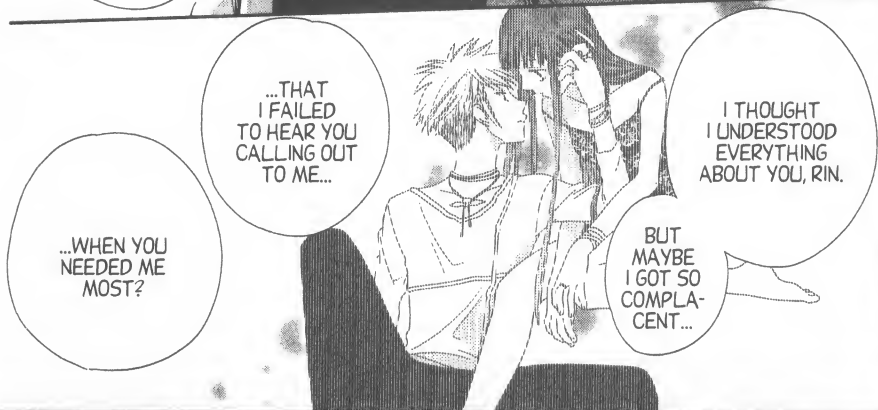
...ABOUT
DYING.



RIN...

...NOT
UNDERSTAND
SOMETHING?

DID I...



...THAT
I FAILED
TO HEAR YOU
CALLING OUT
TO ME...

I THOUGHT
I UNDERSTOOD
EVERYTHING
ABOUT YOU, RIN.

...WHEN YOU
NEEDED ME
MOST?

BUT
MAYBE
I GOT SO
COMPLA-
CENT...

SLAP

RIN,
ARE YOU
STILL...

...LIKE
ON THAT
DAY...



...UNABLE TO
STAND...

...ON YOUR
OWN?



2-D iendfrays



It sounds like a name for a comedy duo... When I started drawing students in the background of school scenes, before I knew it, this miracle pair became the main classmates. But they don't have names. (They're all like that.) I get a lot of letters saying, "Tohru's class really gets along," and I think, "Yup! They really do." If it's a classroom that seems to welcome people with open arms, it's not scary to enter it.



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, HARU. SO CAREFREE...

You're not scared at all.

IF SHE RUNS OFF IN DETERMINED MODE, I CAN'T CATCH HER.

SHE IS THE HORSE, AFTER ALL.



...COME TO MY SENSES.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG.

I'M REALLY STARTING TO...



"DO YOU KNOW WHY?"

BUT...

I DON'T REALLY MIND ABOUT THAT.

ANYWAY, SORRY FOR EXPOSING YOU TO RIN'S POISON TONGUE.

POISON TONGUE...? OH...



YUKI...

YOU HAVE YOUR
OWN THINGS
YOU NEED TO BE
STRONG ABOUT,
RIGHT, YUKI?

SO YOU
REALLY
DON'T NEED
TO WORRY
ABOUT IT.

I JUST NEED
TO BE STRONG
WHEN IT COMES
TO RIN.



...REALLY
WAS A GOOD
MOVE FOR
YOU.

JOINING THE
STUDENT
COUNCIL....

NEW
THINGS
TO GET
USED TO.



...WHAT'S
BEST?

REALLY...?

MAKING
"YOURSELF"
TOP PRIORITY...?

IS
THAT...

YOU
THINK
SO?



WHY...

BUT I
SHOULD
CHOOSE
MYSELF?

IT'S NOT
LIKE I CAN...

...STAND ON
MY OWN
RIGHT NOW.

...ARE
YOU SO
LOST?



YUKI...

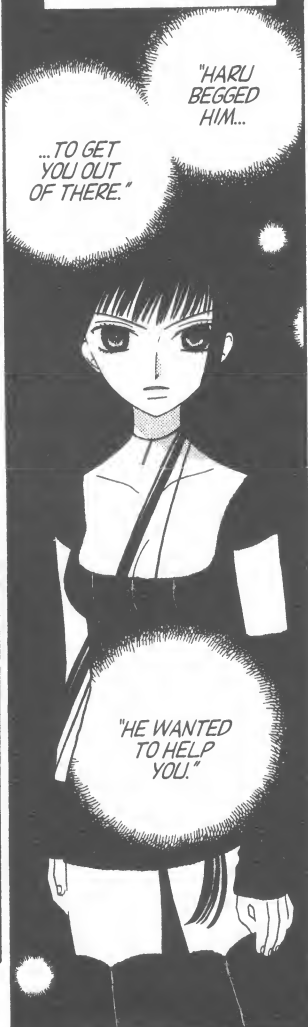
YOU'RE
WEAK.

I CAN'T GIVE
ANYTHING
BACK.

AREN'T THERE
THINGS THAT
SHOULD COME
EVEN BEFORE
THAT?

"HARU
BEGGED
HIM...

...TO GET
YOU OUT
OF THERE."



"HE WANTED
TO HELP
YOU."



YOU'RE
TOO
NICE...

.....

TRY IT.

FIND THE
PLACE WHERE
YOU, YUKI...

...TO
ME...

...HARU.

...TRULY
WANT
TO BE.



BUT,
YUKI...

...YOU'RE
ALSO KIND.

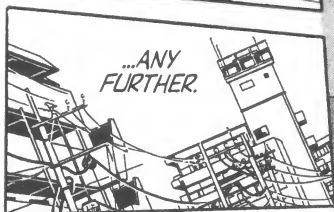


DON'T
STAY
LOST.





I CAN'T
GO...



...ANY
FURTHER.



NOT...

...ALL BY
MYSELF.

...ON MY
OWN.



...KEEP
DOING
YOUR
BEST.

I CAN'T
STAND UP...



OH...

YOU WENT
TO ALL THE
TROUBLE TO
COME SEE
ME?

THAT
MAKES THIS
OLD MAN
VERY HAPPY.
THANK YOU.



HOW ARE
YOU FEELING,
GRANDPA...?

I'M ALL RIGHT.
EXCEPT FOR
MY BACK, I'M
DOING WELL.



ALL I DO
IS SLEEP.
I FEEL LIKE
I'M GOING TO
MELT.

AH
HA
HA!



YES!
IT'S ALL
WORKED
OUT!

WILL YOU
BE ALL RIGHT
WITH THE
PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCE?



BUT
NOW...


...THEY'RE
BOTH...

...GONE,
AREN'T THEY?

KATSUYA
HIMSELF
WAS A BIT
PECULIAR...

...SO
I WONDERED IF
THINGS WOULD
WORK OUT BE-
TWEEN HIM AND
KYOKO-SAN.

BUT THEY
SEEMED
VERY, VERY
HAPPY.



FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN A LONG
TIME, I DREAMED
OF KATSUYA
AND KYOKO-SAN.

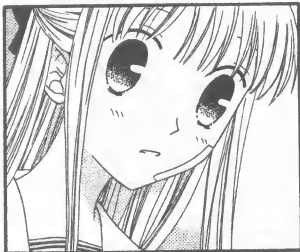


IT BROUGHT
BACK
MEMORIES...



KATSUYA
AND I DIDN'T
USE TO GET
ALONG.

IT WAS
LIKE KYOKO-
SAN BECAME
THE BRIDGE
BETWEEN US.

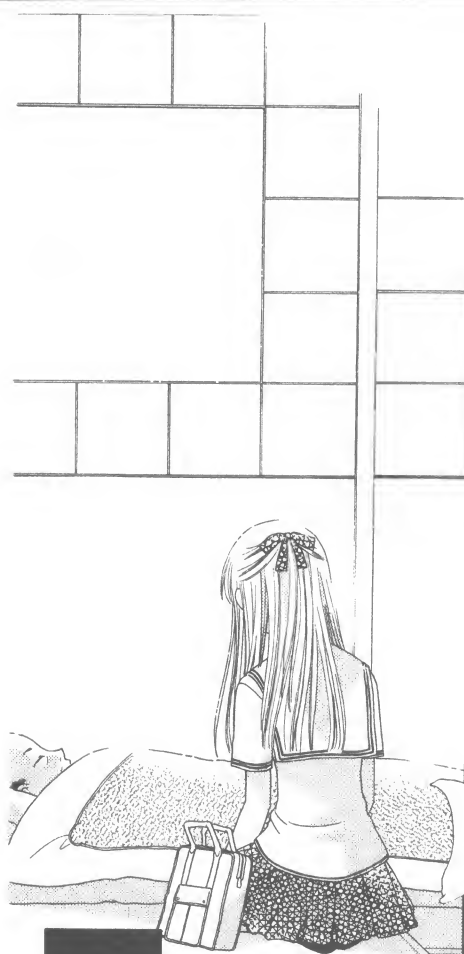


I'D LIKE TO
SEE THEM...

...ONE
MORE
TIME.

EVEN IF
IT'S AS
GHOSTS...

...I WANT
TO SEE
THEM.



...SUCH
THINGS.

DON'T
SAY...



"I WANT
TO GO SEE
HIM."





MOM...

FEEL
BETTER.

I'LL DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT!

DON'T GO
AWAY...

COME
BACK.

SAY ANY-
THING ELSE
BUT THAT.

...LIKE
MOM...

DON'T
GO.



WHAT'S
WRONG?



WAS
HE...

...IN BAD
SHAPE?



TOHRU?

HEY...

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



I WAS
JUST...

...REMEMBERING
THE PAST.

I, TOO,
HAD
CLOSED
THE LID.

.....

HE
SEEMED
ALL
RIGHT.

I'M...

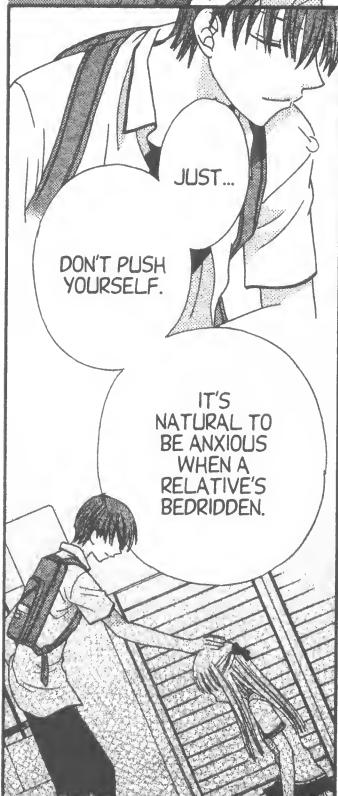
I'M
FINE...



I THOUGHT
MAYBE...
YOU HAD
DESCENDED
FROM THE
HEAVENS...

YOU...

...SURPRISED
ME, KYO-KUN.



JUST...

DON'T PUSH
YOURSELF.

IT'S
NATURAL TO
BE ANXIOUS
WHEN A
RELATIVE'S
BEDRIDDEN.



Huh?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

ARE YOU
STUPID?







YOU'RE
SKINNY...

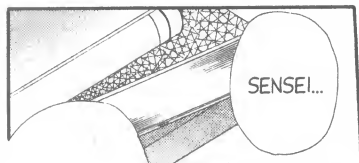
GRAB

30303030...

AND
TINY.

EEHH
!?!

But!

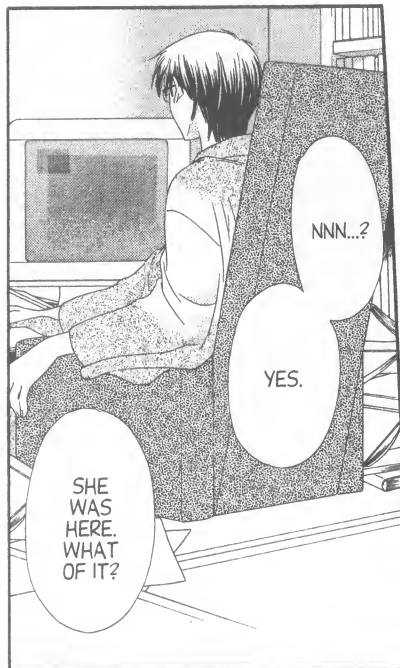


SENSEI...

RIN...



...WAS
JUST HERE,
WASN'T
SHE?



NNN...?

YES.

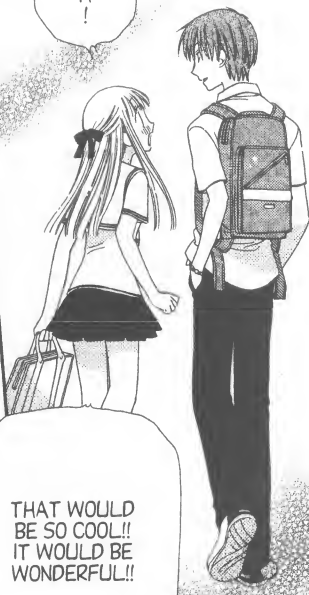
SHE
WAS
HERE.
WHAT
OF IT?

WHAT? ARE YOU
GONNA SAY YOU
WANT TO GROW,
LIKE UOTANI?

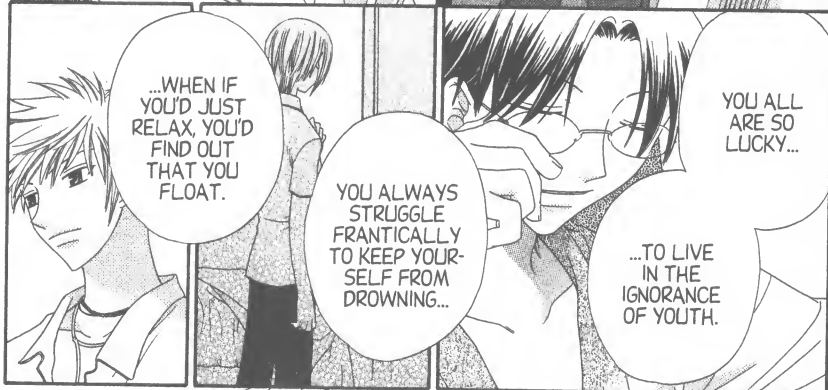
WHAT'S
SHE WANNA
BE SIX
FOOT FOR,
ANYWAY?

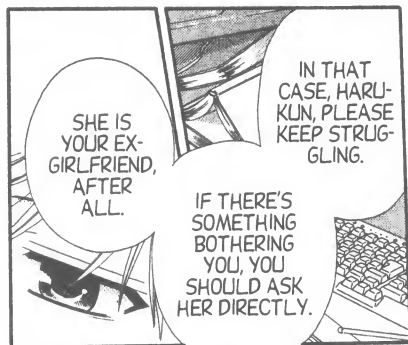
DOES SHE
WANT TO BE
A MODEL OR
SOMETHING?

A
A
H
H
!



THAT WOULD
BE SO COOL!!
IT WOULD BE
WONDERFUL!!







THAT'S
YOUR JOB
AS YOUNG
PEOPLE,
ISN'T IT?

PLEASE, DO
YOUR BEST.

KEEP
STRUGGLING.



Chapter 71

I feel so grateful!



Ah...

Um...

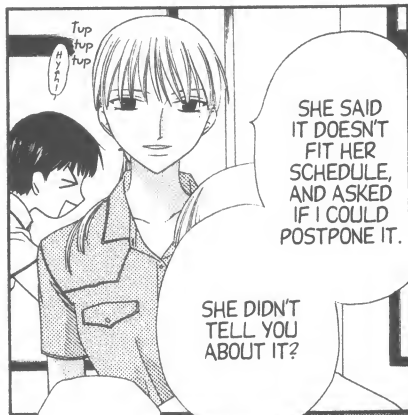
Thank you
very much.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mother, Father and everyone
who reads and supports this
manga, thank you so much
for your support!

Next is the one about whom I've gotten
letters asking, "Is she the character in
charge of sexiness?" Yup. It's Rin.

-Natsuki Takaya





SHE SAID
IT DOESN'T
FIT HER
SCHEDULE,
AND ASKED
IF I COULD
POSTPONE IT.

SHE DIDN'T
TELL YOU
ABOUT IT?

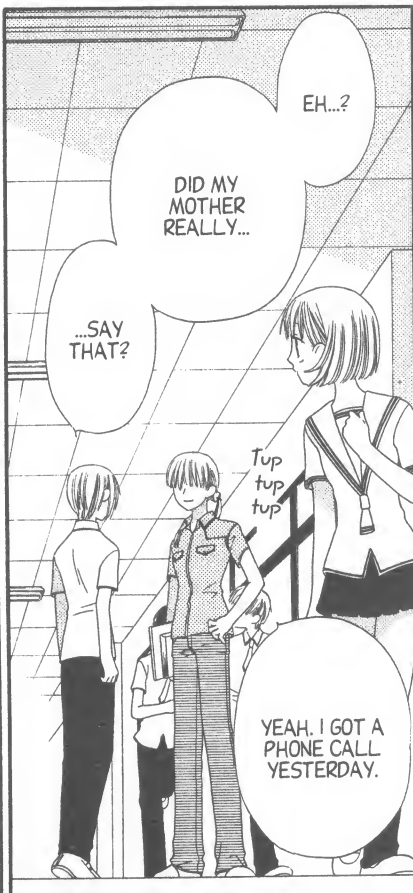


HEY,
DON'T
RUN!
*It's
dangerous!*



I'M SORRY
FOR MY
MOTHER'S...
SELFISH-
NESS.

NOT A
WORD.



EH...?

DID MY
MOTHER
REALLY...

...SAY
THAT?

YEAH. I GOT A
PHONE CALL
YESTERDAY.



.....







THE
PARENT-
TEACHER
CONFERENCES
ARE FOR
YOU TO...

...THINK
ABOUT YOUR
OWN PATH...
YOUR OWN
FUTURE.

SO... SO,
YUKI-KUN...

...PLEASE...
DO YOUR
BEST.

I WON'T BE
AFRAID.

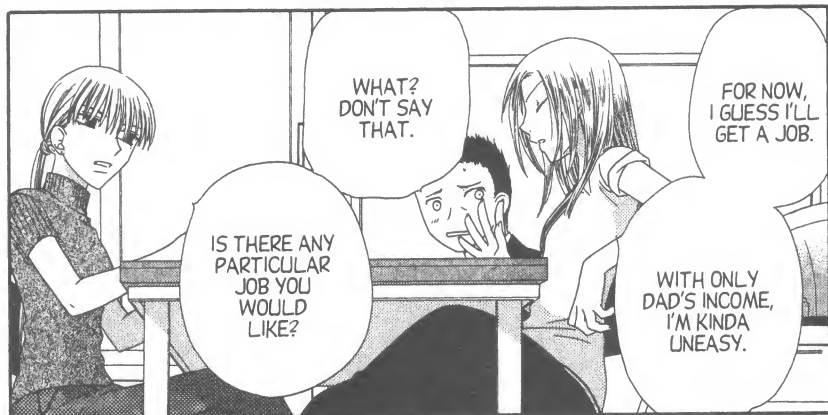
"STAY
OUT OF
IT."

I'LL DO MY
BEST TO NOT
STAY OUT
OF IT!!

HUH?

ANY-
WAY...

...THE
PARENT-
TEACHER
CONFERENCES
HAVE BEGUN!



Squeal!

...WE
WILL BE
GRADUATING.

IN JUST
OVER A
YEAR FROM
NOW...

DID YOU
SEE?!

Tee
hee!

Squea!!

I SAW, I SAW!!
WHO IS THAT
GOOD-LOOKING
MAN?!

Kya
ha!

He
could
be her
brother.

IS HE
REALLY HER
FATHER?!

MAYU-
CHAN-SENSEI
MIGHT FALL
IN LOVE WITH
HIM!!

Shhh!
They'll
hear us!

Where
are you
looking
with that
far-off
gaze?!

HANG IN
THERE,
SAKI-
CHAN!!

I WONDER...
IF I COULD...
GRADUATE...

THAT
DEPENDS ON
HOW MUCH
WORK YOU
PUT INTO IT,
HANAJIMA...





GIVE IT TO ME,
MAYU-CHAN!!
NICE DISGUSTED
FACE!!

THAT'S
IT!!

GLENGH



YOU'RE A
MAN OVER-
FLOWING
WITH
GENEROSITY,
AREN'T
YOU?

THANK
YOU FOR
TAKING
TIME OUT
OF YOUR
BUSY
SCHEDULE!

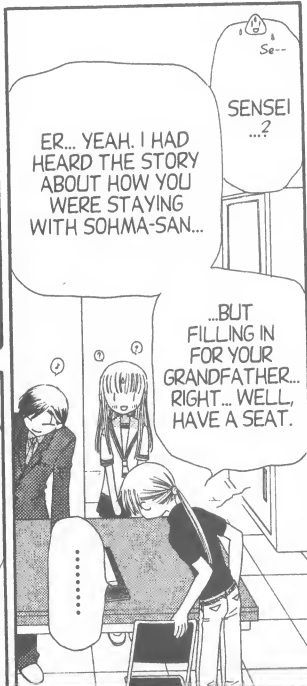
Turn



I ONLY
DID WHAT
ANYONE
ELSE
WOULD
DO.

AH HA HA!
NOT AT
ALL.

Grin



SENSEI
...?

ER... YEAH. I HAD
HEARD THE STORY
ABOUT HOW YOU
WERE STAYING
WITH SOHMA-SAN...

...BUT
FILLING IN
FOR YOUR
GRANDFATHER...
RIGHT... WELL,
HAVE A SEAT.



...I FEEL
LIKE A
COLD WIND
IS BLOWING
IN FROM
THE RIGHT.

WHAT...
COULD
THIS BE?

FOR SOME
REASON...



"YOU'RE
PROBABLY
ANXIOUS
ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE."

IT'S
FINE...



I WILL
GET A
JOB.

NO...



YES!
PLEASE!
LET'S!

Eep!

WELL,
LET'S
BEGIN.



YOU
WANTED
TO GET A
JOB, RIGHT,
HONDA?

THERE ARE
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMS,
SO IF YOU
START NOW...

YOU
REALLY
DON'T
WANT TO
GO ON TO
COLLEGE?

YES!



...WAS
THE LAST
PROMISE
I WAS ABLE
TO MAKE...

AFTER YOU
GRADUATE...

...YOU'RE
PLANNING
TO LEAVE
SOHMA-
SAN'S
HOUSE,
RIGHT?



...TO
MOM.



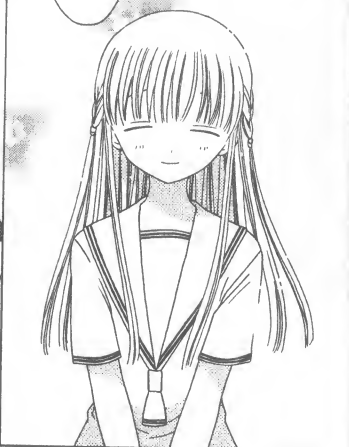
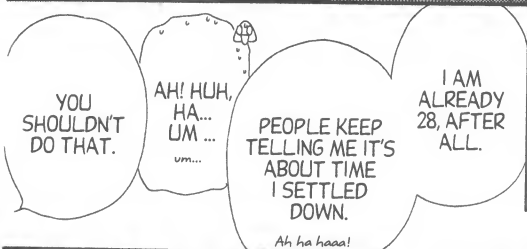
...ONCE I'VE
SAFELY
GRADUATED
HIGH SCHOOL.

I WANT TO
WORK...



AFTER
ALL...

THAT...

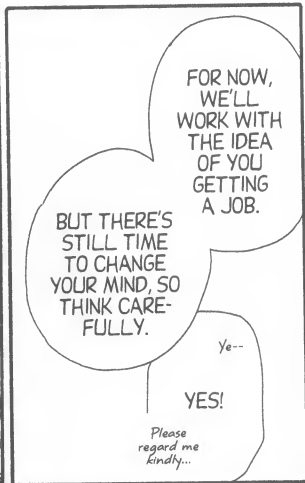


MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT THAT YOU'RE LETTING YOUR YEARS OF BEING OF MARRIAGEABLE AGE PASS YOU BY?

SENSEI, ARE YOU THE TYPE WHO'S STILL DREAMING ABOUT BEING PROPOSED TO?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT THAT YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED?

A PROPOSAL IS VERY IMPORTANT TO A WOMAN-- YOU SHOULDN'T SAY IT SO LIGHTLY.





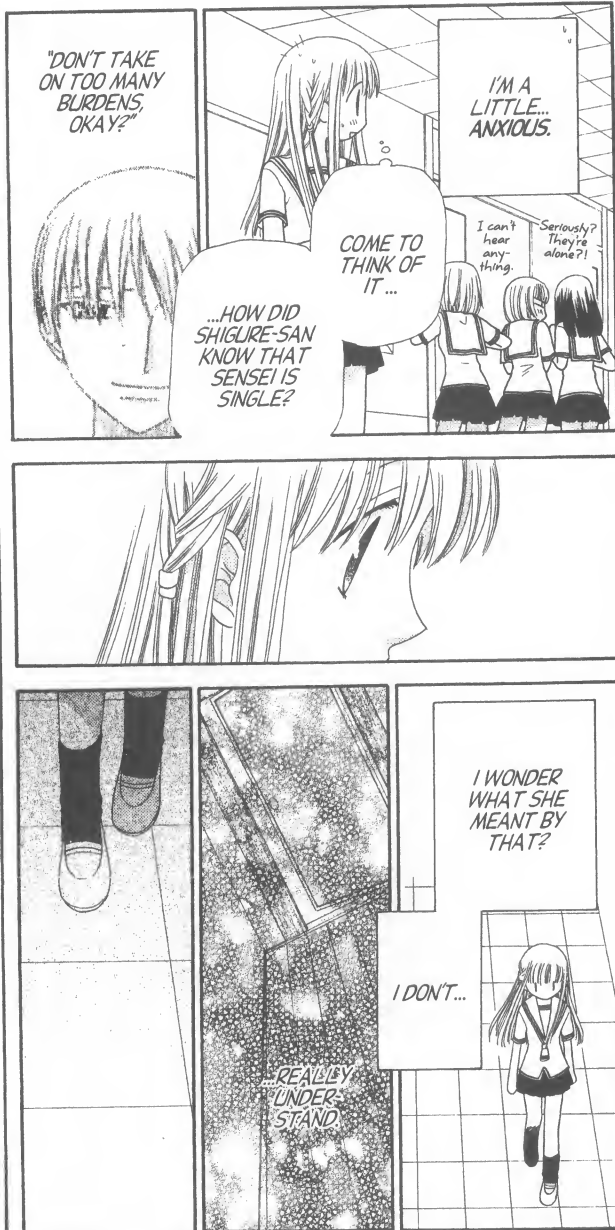
*A story for
here alone.*

I got a letter
saying, "We miss
hearing about
your life!"

So...a short
return. I'm
sorry, but really,
not much has
changed. I work,
play video games,
sometimes go to
see plays or
movies, get sick,
go back to work...
this is my life.

Oh yeah...When
I was playing
games earlier,
and tried
wearing head-
phones, I was
really surprised.
There were
sounds I had
never heard
before! I guess
my TV just has
really bad
speakers. I was
so shocked that
I dug out some
of my old games
and tried playing
all of them again
with headphones.
There were so
many sounds
I didn't know
about! (sob)

...Such is my life.





CUT
THE CRAP,
ALREADY,

LOOK AT
YOU. YOU EVEN
CAME WEARING
HATORI-
KUN'S SUIT!

BINGO!

I BORROWED
IT.

WOW. I'M
IMPRESSED
YOU NOTICED.



I WONDER
IF IT'S THE
POWER OF
**PERSISTENT
LOVE!**

GRRRRRAAH!
HE'S REALLY
PISSING ME
OFF!



...I'D BE
RELATED TO
YOU, AFTER
ALL.

IF YOU AND
HAA-SAN GOT
MARRIED...

THERE'S
REALLY
NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
HATE ME SO.



WHAT IS
THIS...

...LEANING
FEELING?

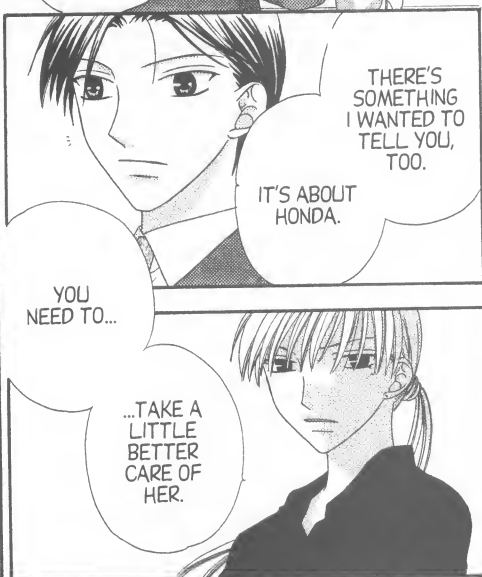
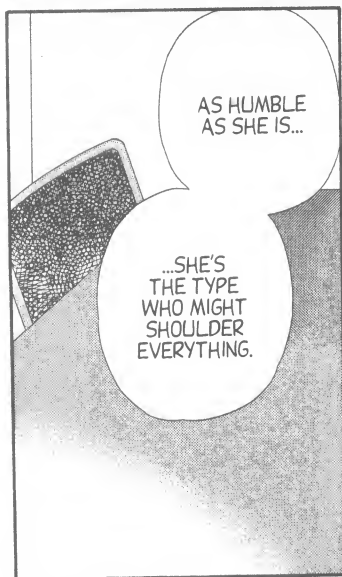
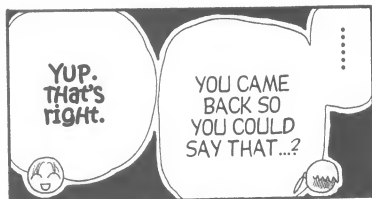
That girl
is really
leaning...
It's true.

YOU
KNOW...



SEEING
YOU ACT
LIKE A
TEACHER...

...I THINK
MAYBE I'VE
FALLEN IN
LOVE WITH
YOU AGAIN.



"SOMETHING
REALLY DID
HAPPEN
AT THE
SUMMER
HOUSE,
DIDN'T IT?"

...WAS
HURT...

...ON HER
CHEEK."

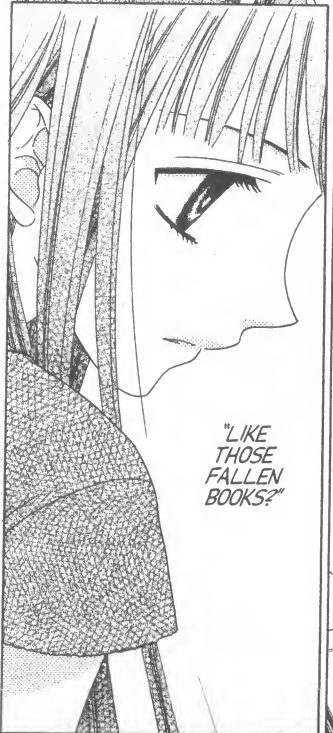


I DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH
YOU KNOW
THAT WOULD
LEAD YOU TO
SAY THAT...

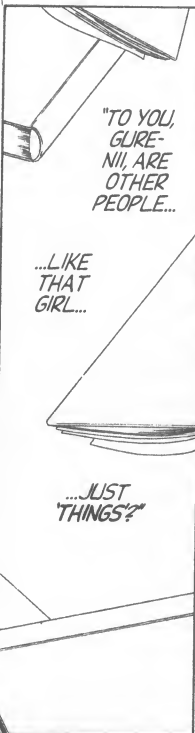


"THAT
GIRL..."

BUT I'VE
BEEN TOLD
THAT...
...BY A
RELATIVE,
AS WELL.



"LIKE
THOSE
FALLEN
BOOKS?"



"TO YOU,
GURE-
NII, ARE
OTHER
PEOPLE..."

...LIKE
THAT
GIRL...

...JUST
THINGS?"



"AKITO JUST
SCRATCHED
HER."



...THAN I'VE
GIVEN ANYONE
ELSE BEFORE.

...I'M
HANDLING
TOHRU WITH
CLOSER
CARE...

EVEN
THOUGH
IT MIGHT
NOT SEEM
LIKE IT...

"LIKE SCRAP
PAPER?"

WITH MY
PERSONALITY,
YOU'D BE A FOOL
TO EXPECT ANY
MORE.

WHATEVER
COULD YOU
MEAN?

HA
HA!

THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN
MUCH...

...COMING
FROM
YOU.

BESIDES,
THAT'S NOT
EVEN MY JOB,
IS IT?

THAT'S
LOW, EVEN
COMING
FROM YOU.

YOU DON'T
EVEN TREAT
THE PEOPLE
YOU CLAIM TO
LIKE AS HUMAN
BEINGS.





Hello.

IT TOOK LONGER
THAN EXPECTED
TO RETURN HAA-
SAN'S SUIT.

Ah

IT REALLY
DOES TIRE ME
OUT, WEARING
A SUIT FOR
SUCH A LONG
TIME.

RETURN
...?

BUT
YOU'RE
STILL
WEARING
IT.

WELCOME
BACK,
SHIGURE-
SAN!

DID SOME
DRUNK
WANDER
INTO OUR
HOUSE BY
MISTAKE...?



BURN
IT.

I DON'T
WANT IT
ANYMORE.



YOU SHOULD
AT LEAST
GIVE IT BACK
AFTER TAKING
IT TO THE
CLEANERS.

YOU SAID
SOMETHING
TO PISS HIM
OFF AGAIN,
DIDN'T YOU?

YUP!
THAT'S
WHAT HE
SAID, SO
I KEPT IT!
☆

You're
the
worst
...

Even now
that you
have it, you
won't wear it
that much.

What's for
dinner?
I'm
hungry!

*about \$2800



HUH
?!

It's
upside-
down!

EH
...?

THE FLOORS
AREN'T GONNA
CLEAN THEM-
SELVES, YA
KNOW.

TOHRU!



...RU.



...I GET
ANXIOUS.

IT'S
HAPPENED
BEFORE.

WHEN
I THINK
ABOUT MY
FUTURE...

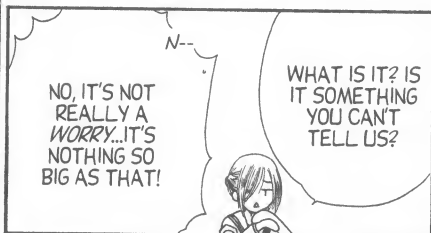


glide

TOHRU-
KUN... IS
SOMETHING
WORRYING
YOU...?

I FEEL
SWIRLING
WAVES...

EH?!



N--

NO, IT'S NOT
REALLY A
WORRY...IT'S
NOTHING SO
BIG AS THAT!

WHAT IS IT? IS
IT SOMETHING
YOU CAN'T
TELL US?

DOESN'T EVERYBODY?

EVEN I GET ANXIOUS.

LIKE I GET THIS JITTERY FEELING DOWN MY BACK, YOU KNOW?

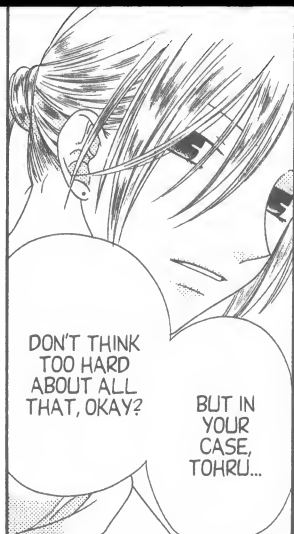
AND MY DAD TELLS ME I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT "MORE SERIOUSLY."

You know...

NO...

NO, IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

THE TRUTH LIES MUCH DEEPER.



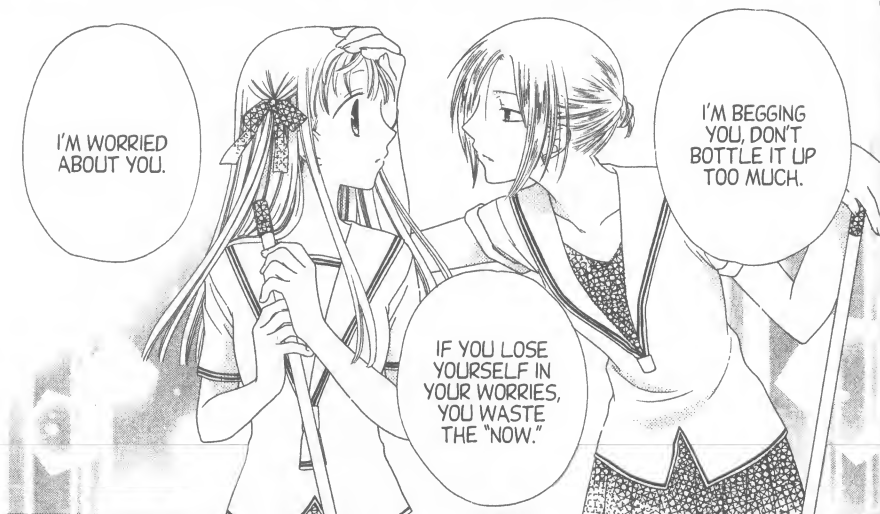
DON'T THINK
TOO HARD
ABOUT ALL
THAT, OKAY?

BUT IN
YOUR
CASE,
TOHRU...



I, TOO...
WAS TOLD,
"PLEASE
GRADUATE!"...

WAY TO
SET THE
BAR LOW.



I'M WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.

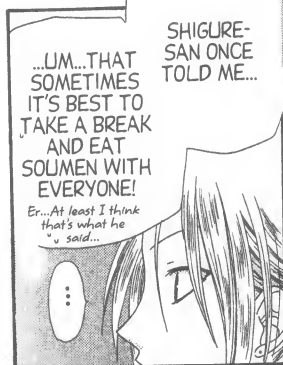
I'M BEGGING
YOU, DON'T
BOTTLE IT UP
TOO MUCH.

IF YOU LOSE
YOURSELF IN
YOUR WORRIES,
YOU WASTE
THE "NOW."

...TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT
YOU CAN DO
NOW. WHAT
YOU CAN DO
TODAY.

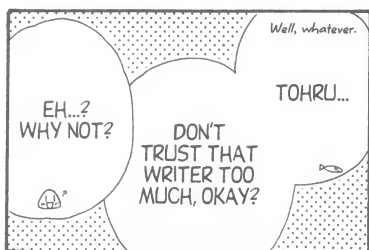
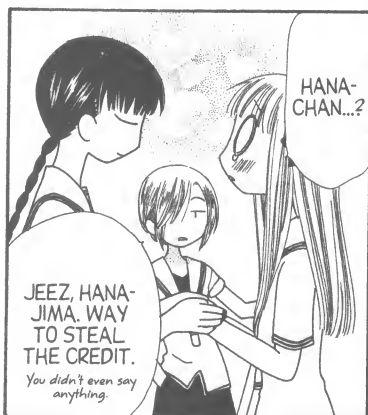
"IT'S ALSO
IMPORTANT..."





*Solmen = noodles









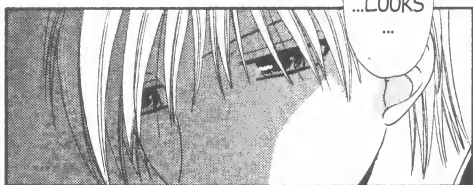
NOPE.

BUT DO YOU
NOT HAVE ANY
OUTLOOKS?

...



OUT...



...LOOKS

...



DO I...

...HAVE
TO...

...DECIDE ON
MY FUTURE
GOALS RIGHT
NOW?



Pfft!

THAT'S
TRUE.

W
H
A
T
?!

WHA--

...AS A
COLLEGE
STUDENT OR
A MEMBER OF
SOCIETY.

IT IS
RATHER
HARD TO
PICTURE
HIM...



...HAVE NO
RIGHT TO
DEPRIVE
CHILDREN OF
THEIR FREE
WILL, DO
THEY?

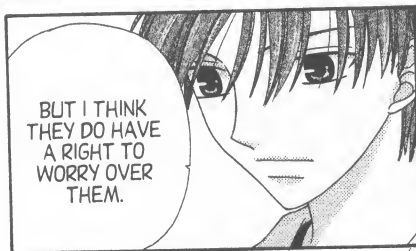
ADULTS...



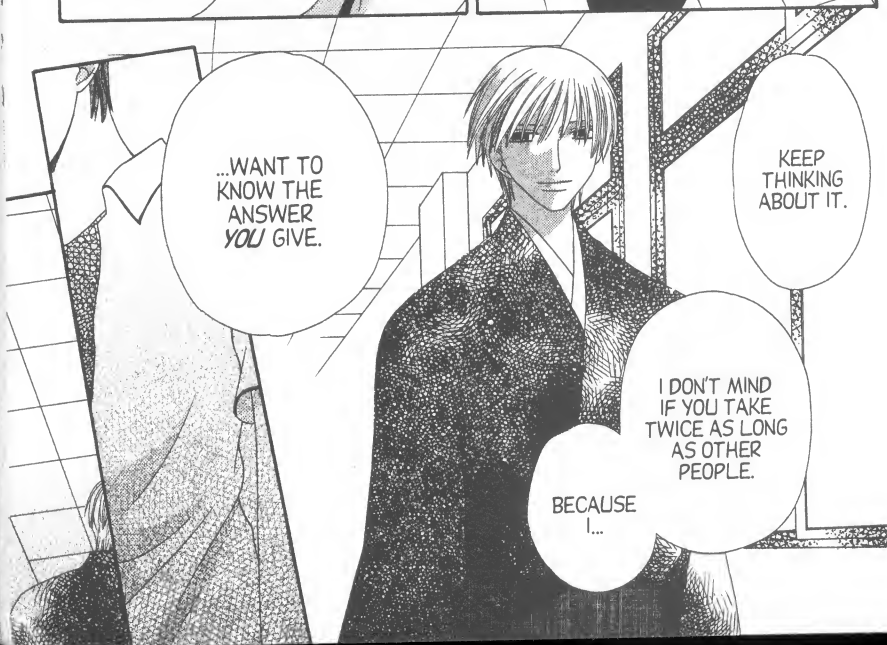
YOU'RE
NOT...

...GOING
TO SAY
ANYTHING?

...



BUT I THINK
THEY DO HAVE
A RIGHT TO
WORRY OVER
THEM.



...WANT TO
KNOW THE
ANSWER
YOU GIVE.

KEEP
THINKING
ABOUT IT.

I DON'T MIND
IF YOU TAKE
TWICE AS LONG
AS OTHER
PEOPLE.

BECAUSE
I...



OTHER
THAN
THAT...

...NOTHING
COMES TO
MIND.

I WANT
TO BE
NEAR
HER.

THAT'S
THE ONLY
OUTLOOK
I'M THINK-
ING ABOUT.



...ONLY
HAVE A
LITTLE
LONGER...



...ONLY A
LITTLE
LONGER...

...TO BE
NEAR
HER.

fling

?!

HEY!



Shut up!

WE'RE
LEAVING!! AND
TODAY WE'RE
GOING TO YOUR
PLACE!

WHY, YOU—
LIOTANI!
YOU REALLY
WANTED
TO HIT ME,
DIDN'T YOU?!

clap-clap
clap * clap
clap * clap
A-amazing...
clap * clap
clap * clap

WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE,
CATCHING
IT LIKE
THAT?!

You're
Kyon!



NO
ONE...

UH, UM,
TODAY, WILL
YOU JOIN US...

...FOR A
SOUMEN
PARTY?!



...LIKES
SHIHAN?

HANAJIMA-
SAN...

...EH?

...WILL
KNOW MY
ANSWER
YET.



WAIT, DAMMIT!
THERE'S NO
WAY I'D WANT
HANAJIMA AS
MY MOM!

But... I'm a
bit nervous
about having
such a large
child...

SO YOU'RE
ALL IGNORING
KAZUMA-DONO'S
FEELINGS?

SLAP

IT'LL ALL
WORK OUT!

RIGHT?!

NOT UNTIL THE
DAY I GRADUATE.

To Be Continued in Volume 13...

Next time in...



Yuki Takes a Stand...

The time for Yuki's parent-teacher conference has finally arrived, and Yuki's mother has already decided his future for him, because apparently Yuki can't decide for himself. While Yuki struggles to get a word in, Ayame shows up and ruffles many a feather. Meanwhile, Tohru goes on a quest to find out if Kureno Sohma is *the* Kureno that Arisa has been in love with all this time. Along the way, Tohru meets Momo--Momiji's little sister, who is tragically not allowed to talk with her big brother. Later, while on a class trip to Kyoto, a girl confesses to Kyo that she's in love with him! How will Kyo react? More importantly, how will Tohru feel about this?

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